



Inside

Snuka Superflys Stevens:
**CAN JIMMY SNUKA PUT HIS
HAUNTED PAST BEHIND HIM?**

May 1983

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**The Rich-Sawyer
Bloodbath Continues:
GEORGIA TERROR
ON TOUR**



**KEVIN SULLIVAN:
"SATAN IS MY
MANAGER!"**

Southwest Tag Team Champions
Rick Morton & Ken Lucas:

"PLEASE DON'T PRINT THIS STORY!"

Valentine vs. Steamboat For The U.S. Title:

**HOW THE "OLD" RICK STEAMBOAT IS
DESTROYING THE "NEW" RICK STEAMBOAT**



When I planned to **retire before** this is the business that made it

Starting with borrowed money, Duraclean gave me the opportunity for financial security... In eight years I sold out at a profit and retired.

"Not until I was forty did I make up my mind that I was going to retire before ten years had passed. I knew I couldn't do it on a salary, no matter how good. I knew I couldn't do it working for others. It was perfectly obvious to me that I had to start a business of my own. But that posed a problem. What kind of business? Most of my money was tied up. Temporarily I was broke. But, when I found the business I wanted I was able to start it for a small amount of borrowed money.

"To pyramid this investment into retirement in less than ten years seems like magic, but in my opinion any man in good health who has the same ambition and drive that motivated me, could achieve such a goal. Let me give you a little history.

"I finished high school at the age of 18 and got a job as a shipping clerk. My next job was butchering at a plant that processed boneless beef. Couldn't see much future there. Next, I got a job as a Greyhound Bus Driver. The money was good. The work was pleasant, but I couldn't see it as leading to retirement. Finally I took the plunge and went into business for myself.

"I managed to raise enough money with my savings to invest in a combination motel, restaurant, grocery, and service station. It didn't take long to get my eyes opened. In order to keep that business going my wife and I worked from dawn to dusk, 20 hours a day, seven days a week. Putting in all those hours didn't match my idea of independence and it gave me no time for my favorite sport—golf! Finally we both agreed that I should look for something else.

"I found it. Not right away. I investigated a lot of businesses offered as franchises. I felt

that I wanted the guidance of an experienced company—wanted to have the benefit of the plans that had brought success to others, plus the benefit of running my own business under an established name that had national recognition.

"Most of the franchises offered were too costly for me. Temporarily all my capital was frozen in the motel. But I found that the Duraclean franchise offered me exactly what I had been looking for.

"I could start for a small amount. (Today, only \$3488 starts a Duraclean dealership. Another option is a \$11,588 full cash investment, and if you qualify, Duraclean can work out financing for half this amount). I could work it as a one-man business to start, and operate from my home. No office or shop or other overhead, no salaries to pay. Equipment would fit in my car trunk. (I bought the truck later, out of profits). Best of all, there was no ceiling on my earnings. I could build a business as big as my ambition and energy dictated. I could put on as many men as I needed to cover any volume. I could make a profit on every man working for me. And I could build little by little, or as fast as I wished.

"So, I started. I took the wonderful training furnished by the company. When I was ready I followed the simple plan outlined in the training. During the first period I did all the service work myself. By doing it myself, I could make much more per hour than I had ever made on a salary. Later, I would hire men, train them, pay them well, and still make an hourly profit on their time that made my idea



fifty possible.



**A true story
by John B. Haikey**

of retirement possible—I had joined the country club and now I could play golf whenever I wished.

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"Furniture dealers and department stores refer their customers to the Duraclean Specialist. Insurance men say Duraclean can save them money on fire claims. Hotels, motels, specialty shops and big stores make annual contracts for keeping their carpets and furniture fresh and clean.

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INSIDE

Wrestling

CONTENTS/MAY 1983

- 6 **SINCERELY YOURS**
Terry Funk Is Right; Patera Power; Piper Is Loved
- 8 **EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK** by Peter King
Ric Flair, Rick Steamboat, and a lesson in friendship
- 10 **BEHIND THE DRESSING ROOM DOOR** by Stu Saks
Hatred still burns in the soul of Larry Zbyszko
- 12 **ON THE ROAD** with Craig Peters
Speaking with Kevin Sullivan's former tag team partner Mike Graham
- 14 **BODYSLAMMS AND PINFALLS** by Dan Shocket
Joyce Grable demands to be treated with respect
- 18 **THE INSIDER** by Rich Countis
Managerial genius J.J. Dillon wants it all
- 20 **NAMES MAKIN' NEWS** by Bill Apter
The Senior Editor's monthly news update
- 22 **NEWS FROM THE WRESTLING CAPITALS**
Results of the month's major matches
- 24 **MATT BROCK'S PLAIN SPEAKING**
Backlund's anniversary; The Midnight Rider; Adrian Adonis update
- 26 **WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**
Update on four major mat stars
- 27 **CAPSULE PROFILE #82**
A mini-biography of Adrian Adonis
- 28 **CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP**
A collector's photo of Adrian Adonis
- 29 **SOUTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS RICK MORTON AND KEN LUCAS: "PLEASE DON'T PRINT THIS STORY!"**
Publicity and fame is not always welcome
- 32 **OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS**
See where your favorites rate this month
- 34 **THE RICH-SAWYER BLOODBATH CONTINUES: GEORGIA TERROR ON TOUR**
Mayhem and madness from Atlanta to Ohio
- 36 **HOW THE "OLD" RICK STEAMBOAT IS DESTROYING THE "NEW" RICK STEAMBOAT**
Steamboat's battle with U.S. champ Greg Valentine ends in despair
- 38 **KEVIN SULLIVAN: "SATAN IS MY MANAGER!"**
An offbeat interview with a frightening Kevin Sullivan
- 42 **SNUKA SUPERFLYS STEVENS: CAN JIMMY SNUKA PUT HIS HAUNTED PAST BEHIND HIM?**
The Superfly remains gripped by the lust for revenge
- 46 **ONE ON ONE**
Sir Oliver Humperdink vs. Jimmy Valiant

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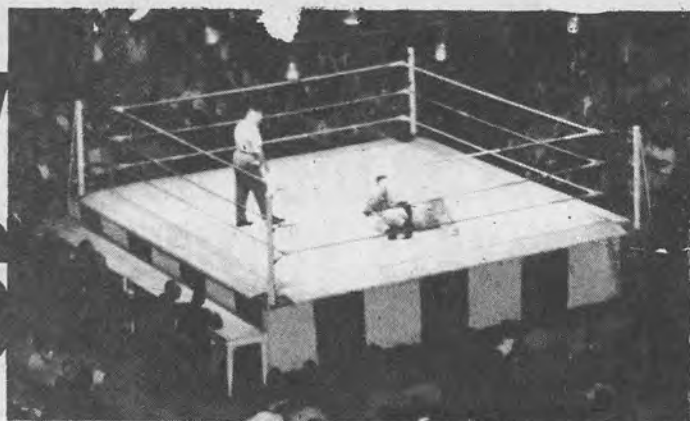
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TERRY FUNK IS RIGHT

I read Stu Saks' "Dressing Room Confidential" in the February 1983 issue of *Inside Wrestling*. It was all about Terry Funk making an imitation of the NWA championship belt.

I think it's all right if Funk wants to call himself champion. After all, if Jerry Lawler can



If Jerry Lawler can call himself "King of Wrestling," why can't Terry Funk call himself "NWA champion," asks reader Osei Bonsu.

proclaim himself King of Wrestling, why can't Terry Funk call himself NWA champion? Even though I hate Terry Funk, I don't see any difference between what Lawler does and what Funk is doing.

If the NWA wants to do something, it should take away Funk's belt and Lawler's crown.

OSEI BONSU
Brooklyn, NY

PATERA POWER

I enjoyed your article in the February 1983 issue of *Inside Wrestling* on Hulk Hogan and Ken Patera ("Hulk Hogan Or Ken Patera: Who Is Really Wrestling's Strongest Man?"). It is my opinion that Ken Patera is stronger than Hulk Hogan.

Although Hogan beats Patera in the tale of the tape, Patera has a lot more speed and agility than Hogan. I have seen Patera do maneuvers in the ring that to the best of my knowledge Hogan hasn't even attempted.

Both men are indeed very strong, but in order to move about in the ring, to get out of situations imposed on you, you have to have the strength, speed, and the know-how to do so.

Therefore, Ken Patera is definitely the strongest man in wrestling.

PAM JOHNSON
Ashland, NH

ROGERS: A GREAT MANAGER

I think it's great that Buddy Rogers is the new manager of Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka. I think Jimmy is the best wrestler to hit the WWF area in a long time. He will soon be the next WWF heavyweight champion. Buddy Rogers should teach Jimmy the figure-four leglock. Rogers used this devastating hold in the '60s. Jimmy would be unbeatable with it.

RICHARD GRAY
New Kensington, PA

(Continued on page 52)



Jimmy Snuka should go very far in wrestling with Buddy Rogers as his manager, writes Richard Gray.

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter
King

Editor-in-Chief

Ric Flair was in a talkative mood. The NWA champion had just concluded another successful title defense, against Rick Steamboat. The match had ended in controversy, but the golden belt resting on the training table in Flair's dressing room was testimony that the bout had ended well, at least for Flair.

A few well-wishers came into the dressing room to shake Flair's hand and congratulate him. A telegram from Buzz Sawyer in Georgia was delivered and Flair read it and laughed. When asked to reveal the contents of the telegram, Flair said, "It's none of your business."

Before stepping into the shower, Flair toweled off and drank a half-gallon of orange juice from the container. On the dressing room floor was that morning's newspaper, crumpled and tattered and covered with boot marks. Flair looked down aimlessly, a smile of satisfaction still on his lips. Then his eyes focused on the newspaper.

Flair's beefy hand snatched up the newspaper and he cursed under his breath as he read the lead item in the sports section. The headline that had grabbed Flair's attention almost screamed off the page: "Steamboat: 'Flair Has Turned On His Friends!'" After about a minute of intense reading, Flair threw the newspaper back on the floor. "That scum," he said, his face red, his eyes ablaze. "Steamboat says I've turned on him because he doesn't like the way I wrestle him. That guy's a damn ingrate. I've given him a shot at the NWA title--and believe me, if I didn't want to, I wouldn't have to wrestle him--and he cries about my tactics. I'll bet if he were champion he wouldn't ever give me a chance to win the belt. Maybe his idea of friendship is for me to just give him the belt and also kiss his boots. I think Rick Steamboat is the one who has to learn about friendship, not me."

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TOP SECRET

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by Stu
Saks



THE ANGER MAKES Larry Zbyszko's veins bulge as if the emotion were injected into his circulatory system. Still.

It's been more than three years since the tragic falling out between Zbyszko and his mentor, Bruno Sammartino. But time has done nothing to alleviate the feelings that can make a man's fist clench, his temples pulsate, his eyes narrow, and his voice growl.

"Two years or 20 years," Larry Zbyszko said, his legs beginning to bounce rhythmically on the floor of his Pittsburgh office. "The name Sammartino will always affect me the same way. Nothing will ever change that. I can't even stand the smell of Italian food anymore."

Italian food used to be Larry Zbyszko's favorite. He used to eat dinner with the Sammartino family at least twice a week. If he were to change his name to Larry Sammartino, nobody in the family would have even noticed. Bruno was his away-from-home father; Bruno Jr. was his away-from-home brother.

"That's all true," Zbyszko says, his hands unclenching and a calm tone returning to his voice. "We'd work out in the gym every day without fail. Bruno's gym. We'd train for a couple of hours, of course following Bruno's training regimen. After we showered and changed, Bruno would ask me what my plans for the evening were. He'd invite me to come to *his* home, to eat *his* food, and to spend some time with *his* family."

The angered tones were returning to Zbyszko's voice. His fists clenched again and he slammed them against his desk.

"Damn," he shouted, "when I
(Continued on page 50)

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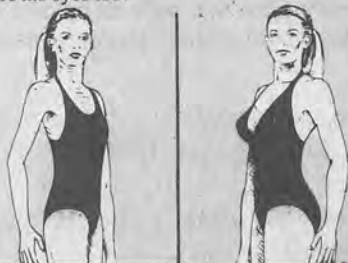
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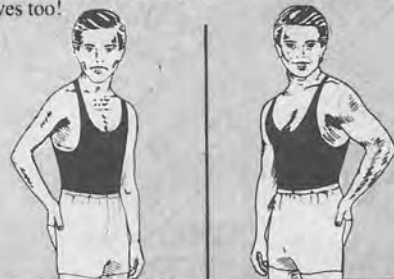
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Chris Sabatino, 1981, Class 1 NBA, Teenage Mr. America

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Mike Graham and Kevin Sullivan were best friends when they were co-holders of the Florida tag team championship in 1974. This photo stirred pleasant memories for Graham.

TURN TO PAGE 38 of this magazine and you will see an interview I conducted very recently with Kevin Sullivan.

I don't think I'm exaggerating when I say that my discussion with Kevin was the strangest experience I have had since entering wrestling journalism. Never in my life have I seen the personality of an individual change so rapidly and so dramatically as Kevin Sullivan's has over the past few months.

In preparing for the interview, I made a very thorough check through our extensive photo and text files. I came across the photo that you see on this page. I had seen it about a year ago, but I had forgotten it existed.

That's Mike Graham on the left. His tag team partner, and fellow Florida tag team champion, is Kevin Sullivan.

Although I was a little too shocked at the sight of Sullivan to ask him very much about his past, I did have the opportunity to catch up with Mike Graham in Florida during the weekend I spent there.

He was preparing to leave for a trip to San Antonio, Texas, but he was kind enough to give me some interview time while he packed his bags.

"Damn, that photo brings back some memories," said Graham. "That was about 10 years ago. What a team we were. Ha! Look at Kevin, he looks like the all-American boy there, doesn't he?"

Mike smiled at the memories the photos were bringing back to him. It became instantaneously obvious that 1973 was a good year for Mike Graham.

"It's funny, at the time I thought we were an unbeatable combination in the ring," said Mike. "Hell, maybe we were! Once we got the belts we were never defeated."

That sounded strange to me, so I asked Mike how he and Kevin ultimately lost the title.

"That's kind of a sad story for me, Craig, but what happened was that I was injured in a match one night," Mike explained, "and the next

(Continued on page 54)

"There is nothing wrong with feeling good, but feeling too good can be a crime, that is, if you take your pleasure from prescribed or unprescribed substances."

A NATURAL LIFT!

REPRINT

Energy • Stamina • Feeling of well being

A Report on L-2000™ – The Safe Alternative.

□ There is nothing wrong with feeling good, but feeling too good can be a crime, that is, if you take your pleasure from prescribed substances.

But what if I told you that you could purchase a pill – without prescription – that increased mental alertness and decreased hunger and fatigue? What if I mentioned further that the substance in the pill is 100 percent organic? You would probably be as skeptical as I was when I recently learned of L-2000™.

Lapsang, a variety of the shrub *thea sinensis*, grows wild in Assam as a tree of considerable size with leaves somewhat larger than those of the shrubby form cultivated in China. In China, *thea sinensis* (L-2000™) has been grown for 4,000 years or more. The shrub was introduced into Japan during the 13th Century, then into India, Ceylon and other parts of the East Indies toward the mid-19th Century.

L-2000™ is prepared by cutting, drying and rolling the leaves of stems of the mature plant. The ancient Chinese aristocracy promised a feeling of:

1. Increased mental clarity
2. Alertness and brighter spirits
3. More aware and discriminating sensations
4. Loss of appetite
5. A surge of sustained energy



In a symposium on the pharmacology and the physiological and psychological effects of L-2000™ (*thea sinensis*), Dr. Phillips Frohman, Ph.D., M.D. stated, "The ability of *thea sinensis* (L-2000™) to make life just a little more pleasant is *unquestionable*." It has been said that L-2000™ induces a state of consciousness midway between gently excitement and easy repose'... "The old and the young, the sick and the well are capable of enjoying this soothing lift." Wow!

Apparently, L-2000™'s wondrous powers cure certain types of headaches, neuralgia, menstrual distress and bowel complications. But the claims pale in comparison to its elevating effects. Despite the natural suspicion that nothing as promising as L-2000™ can be either available or harmless. M. Grieve – author of "A Modern Herbal", a classic reference source – confirms L-2000™'s potency: "It is a gentle excitant and serviceable where the brain is irritated or depressed by mental exertion, or where there is fatigue or exhaustion."

L-2000™ has long been sold worldwide in many various forms. Recently, the tablet was introduced here in the United States and suddenly L-2000™ took off. The Food and Drug Administration has adopted a wait-and-see attitude.

But how do everyday people react to this natural, miracle lift? Douglas B., a Hollywood television director states, "I love L-2000™. I first used Lapsang as a diet to quickly lose 10 pounds but I soon discovered its (L-2000™'s) ability to give me unbelievable amount of energy during long shooting days. Now I keep L-2000™ with me all the time."

Daniel S., an award-winning art director, says of L-2000™, "This stuff gives me a lift! I mean *really*...It makes me feel great! How can I put it in any other words – my creativity level is always higher after I use L-2000™." Phil L., a truck driver from Houston, Tex., relates, "All you get on the road is tired and fat. Now, I can drive longer and I don't get jittery or nervous, or get that heavy crash that you get from other kinds of pills if you know what I mean." Sheila G., actress and model, New York, N.Y.: "Being a model, I have to constantly watch my weight. A couple of pounds over and I'm out of business. With L-2000™, I can eat less and work longer – really feeling up! It not only makes me feel good, it makes me look great." Bonnie C., secretary, Chicago, Ill., says, "We all have had bad days at the office...my answer to those days is L-2000™." Laura P., a waitress in Boston, Mass., explains, "Working in a restaurant you tend to nibble *all* the time. One of my regular customers turned me on to L-2000™ when I was complaining about gaining weight...well, I'm not gaining weight anymore, because I don't *feel* like nibbling."

Of course, L-2000™, with all its newfound endorsement and controversy, is bound to meet the usual resistance from the major pharmaceutical companies. But, the Food and Drug Administration, which regulates and classifies such substances, will be hard-pressed to half classifies such substances, will be hard-pressed to halt the importation of this miracle leaf, L-2000™. Remember L-2000™ has been utilized and its benefits have been confirmed for over 4,000 years. That, in itself, is amazing.

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Body Slams & Pinfalls

By Dan Shocket

IT IS A cliché that even a stopped clock is right twice a day. A stopped clock has it two times over NWA officials.

Their latest stupidity involved Joyce Grable, a woman who demands to be treated with respect. If she is a professional wrestler—and even the Neanderthal minds of the NWA agree that is true—then she deserves to be paid the salary of a professional. She should not be discriminated against because she is a woman professional. Though it's not exactly illegal, it is certainly unethical and decidedly bad business.

Ms. Grable found herself in a position recently in which she was to be paid appreciably less than her male colleagues on a wrestling card featuring two Battle Royals in Atlanta. The winner of the women's Battle Royal was to receive \$15,000 less than the winner of the men's Battle Royal. Since the women were drawing in customers, it is only fair they should get an equal share of the receipts. Instead, the



To deny Joyce Grable the opportunity to earn equal pay for an equal output of work as her male counterparts, is to call her and every other woman a second-class citizen.

officials decreed that the women were to be paid less. Their reasoning, though unstated, seems to be that the women were penalized because the officials could get away with it.

When Ms. Grable found she couldn't get a man's share in the women's Battle Royal, she quite sensibly (and bravely) asked to appear in the men's Battle Royal. Ask any professional. The smart person goes where the money is found. The men laughed at her,

treated her with the insensitivity of fools unsure of their own masculinity, and prohibited her from the more lucrative combat. Disgusted with the whole venture, Ms. Grable quite logically refused to show up at all. Anyone with brains should applaud her decision. Anyone with moral courage should support her stand.

In truth, Joyce Grable is one of the few women seriously interested in saving women's wrestling.

(Continued on page 56)

Now—enjoy a life of unbelievable riches, lasting love and constant protection with the secrets in this startling WITCH BOOK—

THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT

Whatever it is you need or want, Witchcraft can get it for you quickly, easily, and automatically, say these experts. You'll discover how it can bring abundant and overflowing wealth, find or bring back a lover, ward off evil influences, and much more—step-by-step in plain English, with complete easy-to-follow instructions!

Yes... Witchcraft! Every time you hear the word it brings with it the feelings of deep occult secrets—secrets that you would like to know so that your life can be better; so that your enemies will stop bothering you; so that serenity, love, power and comfort can be yours!

THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT lays bare these secrets for the first time! Do you want a bank account bursting at the seams with money? A love life that would make a sultan envious? Supreme power to crush your enemies and reward your friends? What would it be worth to you to utter a simple incantation that would cause any pain to vanish? Or say another, and immediately recover some lost object?

What would it be worth to you to fly through time and space, on astral wings, as Witches do... go wherever you wish... do whatever you wish... without being detected... watch the antics of others behind closed doors... hear private conversations... make time run forward or backward... read tomorrow's newspaper in a "black mirror"... find out what really happened in history... make your face old or young at will!

BRINGS AUTOMATIC ASSURED SUCCESS!

Witchcraft can bring your heart's desire! You can use it to heal someone, influence the boss to give you that raise, or make someone stop bothering you! It's easy! The easiest thing in the world! You don't have to be wealthy or super-intelligent to get started! Thousands of ordinary people all over the world are using Witchcraft Power right now!

Witches have known for centuries that people are scared of them and their powers! And rightly so! NOW YOU CAN SHARE THE SAME POWER that gives you literally life and death control over other persons! Is someone bothering you? No problem at all, with Magic Witchcraft. For example, there is a spell called the "Cross Not My Path" ritual, for people who are having neighbor trouble. When you use it, you know you will never again have trouble with this neighbor!

With these amazing Witchcraft secrets, other people will look up to you—in awe—you'll automatically dazzle others with your power to make things happen at your will, you'll be Master of your destiny, and never have to apologize to anyone for anything!

Whatever you want or need, whatever frustration is bothering you, Witchcraft will help you. It is not evil—nor is it Black Magic. Like electricity, it is simply a power given by nature for the use of men, to make life easier.

You'll see how to get paid without working... how to get expensive clothes and furs FREE... how to get a first-class plane seat FREE... how to vacation at the finest hotels, motels, pools and pleasure palaces, start living like a millionaire as Witches do!

AMAZING TECHNIQUE HAS HELPED THOUSANDS!

Witchcraft secrets like these can make you rich faster than anything else in the world! Here's how others have used them to make

IN THIS WITCH BOOK YOU'LL DISCOVER...

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- How to Keep Evil Forces Away!

miracles happen in their daily lives!

You'll see how Vern, a man who likes to give a lot of expensive parties, was always short of cash until he discovered the amazing WITCH'S MONEY JAR—now all he has to do is dip in, for it brings him an endless flow of cash! Evelyn, a waitress, was always lending money to friends, and was always broke. Finally, she placed her last dollar on the table, and worked the MONEY MAGNET SPELL over it. At all once, dozens of people who had borrowed money from her, rushed to pay her back!

Hank was perpetually broke. One night he got together with some friends, and they decided to cast the MONEY SPELL. The very next day, Hank received in the mail a check for some \$250 worth of insurance. (He had never heard of the company that sent the check, he was not insured with them, and had never even made a claim—but he accepted the money.) Another member of the group that used the spell, a 40-year-old secretary, received an automobile as a gift! All the other members of the group received amazing windfalls of money, as well! You'll see how Dexter, a retiree, lives RENT FREE and receives \$200 a week at the age of 78, with a secret you'll find in this Witch Book! You'll see how Claudine, a secretary, was able to wear the finest, most expensive furs—FREE—and spend weekends at an expensive ski lodge in the mountains, where she met a wonderful man! How Ruth L., a widow—with nothing but a small pension, and a little savings—received her dream home, by using a simple 5-minute ritual on page 38 of this book!

Using the same Witchcraft secrets, YOU can achieve peace of mind and freedom from money worries for the rest of your life!

YOU CAN HEAL YOURSELF AS WITCHES DO!

Feeling sick today? Plagued by a lot of troublesome illnesses? Perhaps some relative is sick and constantly demanding your attention? Or perhaps it is even a pet that needs help? With the MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT, you can cure anything, say authors Gavin and Yvonne Frost: "In our experience... we have not found a single incurable disease!"

• **ANDY DISSOLVES A GALLSTONE!**—Andy M. developed gallstones. When his illness became too troublesome to ignore, he went to a doctor. Urine tests revealed that he was chronically alkaline. His body was badly out of balance. Using this Witchcraft method to restore balance to the mind and body—in a short while, X-rays showed that he had no more gallstones! Andy never again suffered the excruciating pain of passing stones!

In the same way, say Gavin and Yvonne Frost, almost all illness can be prevented. You are actually employing an ancient Witchcraft method to remove diseased tissue! Even if you do not have any belief in the results, the power will work for you!

One woman, who had been in a wheelchair for 26 years, due to polio and arthritis, used the Witchcraft healing method, and reported that she had no pain and could walk and garden again! A man reported that his son's deep 3rd degree burns miraculously healed overnight!

• **SO SIMPLE A CHILD USES IT!**—A 4-year-old girl asked if she could try to heal a man who was limping—due to a torn ligament—with this simple Witchcraft healing method. In a matter of moments, she started her chant, laying her hands on the weak ankle. The man was miraculously cured! To skeptics, this should be convincing PROOF that anyone can use it!

AMAZING POWER CAN BE YOURS!

Whether you want infinite wealth, or just a comfortable new home, financial security, fine possessions, love, companionship, new health and vigor, power to control others, secret knowledge, protection from evil, or anything else, the magic power of Witchcraft can bring it to you quickly, easily and automatically! It's the easiest thing in the world!

• **HOW TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE!**—Would you like to be able to see the future? You CAN with the magic Black Mirror you'll see how to make on page 23. All you need is some ink and a bowl of water. Then use the chant on this page, and you will be able to see many things. One man uses it to read tomorrow's newspaper. YOU can use it to check the stock market or that important horse race!

• **MAKE TIME RUN BACKWARD OR FORWARD!**—A



MEET THE AUTHORS

GAVIN FROST, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.D., is Archbishop of the Church of Wicca, New Bern, North Carolina with national headquarters in Salem, Missouri, branches in several states and worldwide membership. He is Marshal of the Gold Star of England, with the right to wear the Saffron Robe and one of the very few Witches in the Western Hemisphere privileged to wear the authentic mark of initiation on his wrist. Although descended from a long line of mystics and scholars, and formerly a Vice-President and Director of International Operations for major aerospace companies, he prefers to be thought of as a humble teacher.

Mrs. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D., with her husband Gavin Frost, devotes her time to giving private instruction and publishing *Survival*, the newsletter of the Church of Wicca, of which she is a Bishop.

Articles by or about Gavin and Yvonne Frost have appeared in such national publications as *Midnight* and the *National Enquirer*.

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When you receive your copy of **THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT**, we will send you the Witches protection pentagon amulet (see p. 26) that will protect you from evil. Whether you keep the book or not, this handsome, powerful amulet is yours as a gift. So send in this no-risk coupon right now!



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• **SECRETS OF SILENT PERSUASION!**—There is a magic handshake that Witches often use, revealed on page 62. With this secret, you can implant a thought in someone's mind! You can use this Witchcraft power to dominate others! Control your boss! Make someone love you! Leave your enemies groveling in the dust! There is even a gazing technique Witches use on page 45, for identical thoughts. With this secret, you can read your friend's mind and share his or her identical thoughts!

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By using these Witchcraft secrets, you too can change your life and gain health, wealth, someone to love—or anything else—surely, swiftly and automatically!

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• **THE WITCH'S MONEY MAGNET!**—You'll see how to magnetize a dollar bill so that it multiplies! All you need to make your own Witch's Money Magnet is a dollar bill, a green candle, and the words on page 38. Once you do this, your dollar will double and keep doubling! You'll enjoy glittering luxuries, and start living like a millionaire, as Witches do!

• **THE WITCH'S BLACK MIRROR!**—Just as your TV set has been called your "window on the world," so the Black Mirror is your "window on the psychic world"—the world of the unknown. Making your own personal Black Mirror takes only a few moments and can open the way to unguessable visions. All you need is a bowl of water, some ink, and the chant on page 23. Suddenly you will see scenes from other places and times, or any scene you wish to see!

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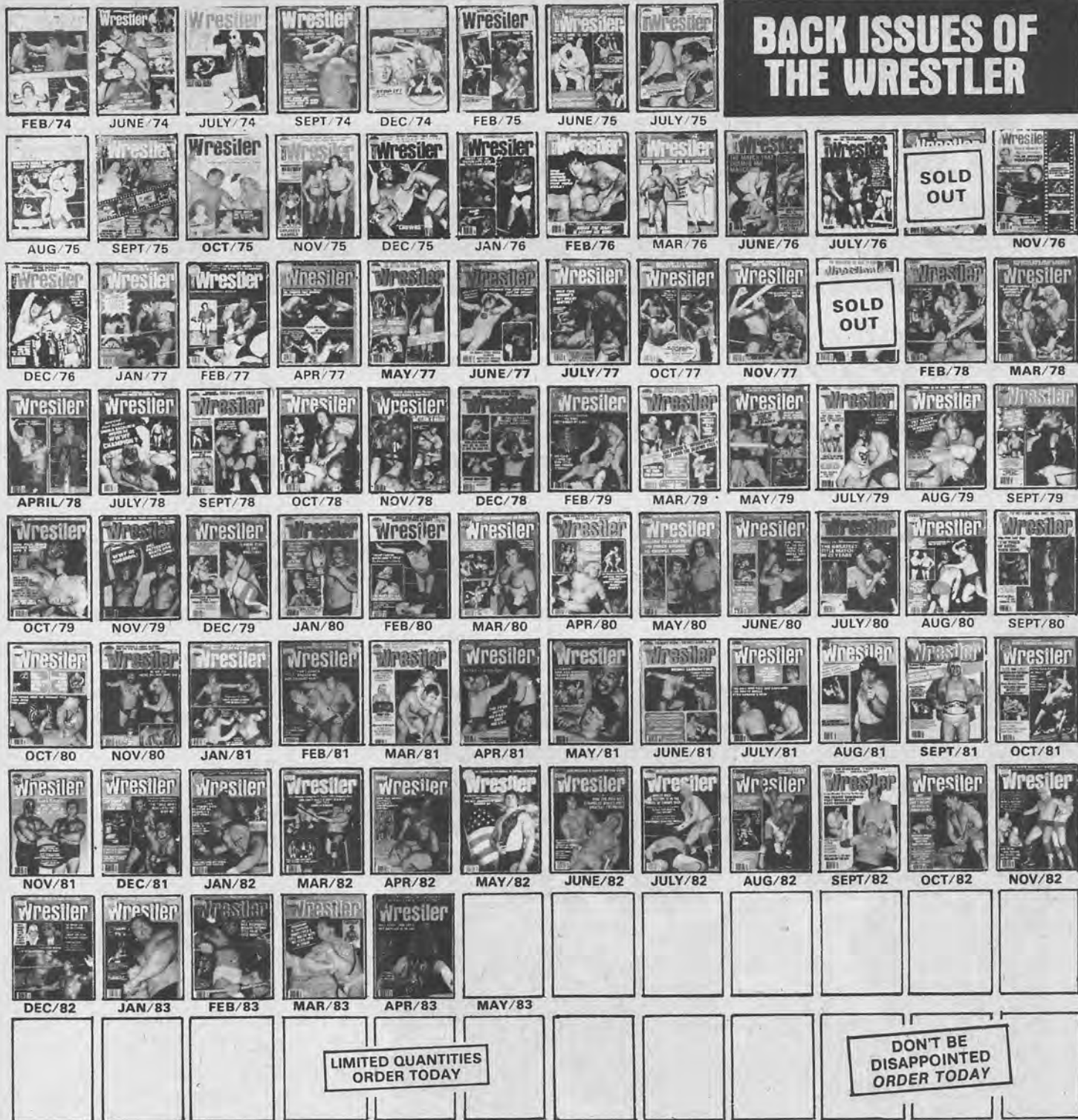
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THE INSIDER

BY RICH COUNTIS

SCOOP OF THE MONTH

Some men are never satisfied, no matter how high a level of success they attain. These men are driven to continuously improve themselves, regardless of their status in life.

Should they have assets of \$10 million, they strive to increase that number to \$20 million. Should they own a

want a winter cabin in Vermont.

J.J. Dillon is one of these men.

For many long months, Dillon has virtually held the state of Florida in the palm of his hand. For the greater part of 1982, one of Dillon's wrestlers held the Florida heavyweight title, including The Spoiler, Jim Garvin, Bruiser Brody, and even Dillon himself.

Currently, the Global tag team title falls under his jurisdiction. The team of Don

contract, he has subleased the contract from Al Costello and handles the team in Florida.

Dillon also directs the career of The Moondogs, who are currently rampaging through Georgia area wrestling rings.

Now, according to sources close to Dillon, the crafty manager is considering purchasing the contract of Blackjack Mulligan as the first of a two-point plan to rule southern United States tag team wrestling. The second point would be to induce Blackjack Lanza to come out of retirement.

What this means, amazingly, is that the incredible championship tag team of The Blackjacks would be back in action.

I contacted Dillon at his Florida office to confirm the rumors of The Blackjacks' reunion.

"Well, Rich, it certainly would be the tag team event of the year, wouldn't it?" Dillon asked me. His tone of voice was cool, calm, and collected. Cool as a cucumber, I thought. He's not about to let me know one iota more than he wants me to know about his plans.

"As Manager of the Year," Dillon continued, referring to his winning selection by the readers of our sister publication *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, "it is important that I maintain a high level of excellence in the men that I manage, in the championships that I attain,

(Continued on page 58)

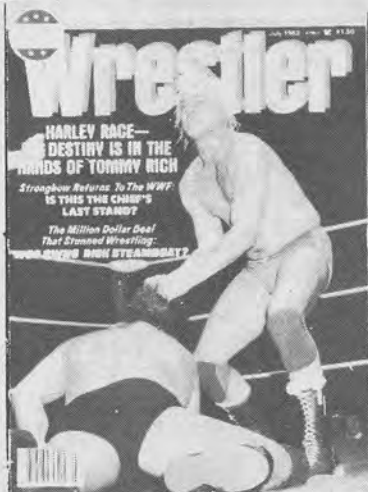


Blackjack Lanza tries to pull Jose Lothario toward his corner and partner Blackjack Mulligan during a 1974 match in Houston. J.J. Dillon will have pulled off the managerial coup of the year if he could lure Lanza out of retirement and reunite The Blackjacks.

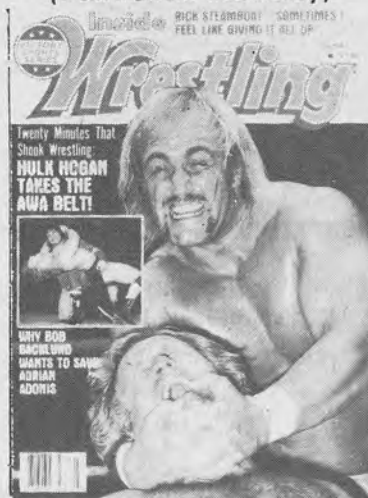
Rolls-Royce and a Jaguar, they immediately desire a Ferrari to add to their collection. Should they own a mansion on Long Island and a summer home on Martha's Vineyard, they also

Kent and Johnny Heffernan, The Fabulous Kangaroos, recently captured those belts from Barry Windham and Ron Bass. Though Dillon does not actually own The Kangaroos'

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NAMES MAKI



MAGNIFICENT MURACO

When **Magnificent Muraco** returned to the WWF after more than a year's absence, he boldly announced that he would recapture the Intercontinental title from **Pedro Morales** in his first attempt. Well, it took two tries, but before 21,000 fans in Madison Square Garden (chanting "beach bum" in unison), Muraco succeeded in defeating the Puerto Rican fan favorite. Morales had worn the belt for 14 months after winning the title from Muraco in the same arena.

The jubilation **Scott McGee** and **Terry Allen** experienced after winning the Global tag team title from **The Fabulous Kangaroos** in Tampa, Florida, did not last long. The Kangaroos, under the guidance of **James J. Dillon**, regained the belts just a few days later . . . **Ivan Putski** has brought his brand of "Polish Power" to Texas. Putski wants to swing his

Polish hammer at Southwest titleholder and archenemy **Tully Blanchard**. By the way, **Fred Blassie** claims that Putski departed the WWF when he caught a glimpse of Blassie's new charge, **The Polish Prince**, in action.

Captain Lou Albano says that **Mr. Fuji** is excelling in singles competition and hopes to have him signed for a match against WWF champion **Bob Backlund** in the



MR. FUJI

near future. Neither Albano nor Fuji will comment on the speculation that Fuji intends to become a manager. Fuji's former partner **Mr. Saito** has returned to Japan . . . **The Freebirds** tell all who will listen that Texas fans are idiots and **The Von Erich Family** consists of morons. "Texas fans



MICHAEL HAYES & TERRY GORDY

don't have the class of Georgia fans," **Michael Hayes** says. "Georgia fans root for us—they are smart. They can smell wimps like the Von Erich clan a hundred miles away."

Heartpunch master **Stan Stasiak** has taken young **Billy Jack** under his wing and is advising him in the Pacific Northwest . . . Alabama State champion **Wayne Harris**, looking over his list of contenders, says, "Things are in pretty bad shape around here if **Jimmy Golden** is my number one challenger" . . . **Dick Murdoch** has returned to Georgia "because I want a piece of the butt of **Buzz Sawyer**," he told us. "The punk is runnin' roughshod over everyone here and it is time big daddy Dickie came to straighten things out."

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...

Cowboy Bob Orton has left the Mid-Atlantic region to wrestle in St. Louis and Puerto Rico. Before leaving, Orton assured **Roddy Piper** that he was not deserting Piper's Palace. "Anytime you need my services," Orton told Roddy, "I am only a phone call away" . . . **Crusher Blackwell** and **Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie** plan to fly to AWA headquarters in Amarillo, Texas, to file an official protest with association president **Stanley Blackburn**. The evil pair has been told in no uncertain terms by AWA tag kings **Greg Gagne** and **Jim Brunzell** that they will not be given any more shots at the tag title.

The NWA has approved the request of **Paul Orndorff** to wear a football helmet in the ring in matches against **Ivan Koloff**. "Koloff uses a kneepad that is loaded with some sort of foreign object," explains Orndorff. "So to combat this I have permission to wear the headgear." To me, it would seem more logical for the NWA to order its referees to carefully check Koloff for foreign



ERIC EMBRY

objects before a match, rather than allow Orndorff to wear something as dangerous as a football helmet.

If you have wondered what became of young **Eric Embry**, the explosive talent who became a big star in Florida a few years ago, Eric is now wrestling in San Antonio, Texas, and the fans there love him! Eric says that veteran star **Jose Lothario** has been working out with him in the gym and that he is learning new moves every day . . . **Terry Funk** is in the Caribbean Islands defending his imitation NWA title belt . . . **Sgt. Slaughter** and **Ivan Koloff** are both negotiating to get title matches against WWF champion **Bob Backlund**.

Despite the complaints of former champion **Harley Race**, **Kerry Von Erich** does not feel that his Missouri title-winning effort was tainted in any way. The rules

for this particular match stipulated that the title could change hands on a disqualification verdict. "I had him beaten all the way," Kerry said. "The only way he kept the title from me in the past was by DQ. Not this time. I am very proud to be champion and promise a very honorable title reign."

WWF fans in America have flooded WWF offices in Japan with mail requesting the return of the sensational **Tiger Mask**. WWF officials in Japan tell us that the junior heavyweight champion will be returning to the U.S. for an



TIGER MASK

extended stay some time this year . . . **Billy Robinson** is grappling in Montreal . . . **Precious Paul Ellering** is in Georgia demanding a match against **Hacksaw Butch Reed**. "All I ever hear from the fans is about this so-called body beautiful down in Georgia," Ellering says. "I'm here to see just what Reed is made of!"

That's all for now. See you at the matches! □



IVAN KOLOFF

NEWS FROM THE

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

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ALLENTOWN, PA

By Dean Grande



**TIGER MASK
vs.
MR. SAITO**



The sensational WWF junior heavy-weight champ met the former co-holder of the tag team title in a brilliant all-Japanese battle. It started scientifically, but Saito quickly found he couldn't keep up with his opponent and resorted to rulebreaking tactics. Saito threw Tiger Mask out of the ring, but Tiger Mask flipped himself back in and dropkicked Saito through the ropes. Tiger Mask then ran from the far side of the ring, flew over the near ropes, and delivered a spectacular flying bodypress. Saito amazingly returned to the ring, only to be victimized by Tiger Mask's sunset flip. The winner received a standing ovation.

ST. LOUIS, MO

By Calvin Allen



**RIC FLAIR
vs.
BUTCH REED**



A sellout crowd at the Kiel Auditorium saw NWA champion Ric Flair retain his belt by winning the only fall in this scheduled two-out-of-three fall match. Reed had Flair in trouble very early in the match as he opened up a cut on Flair's forehead and continued the onslaught with headscissors, dropkicks, and punches. Even though Flair scored the only fall after 30 minutes of action, Reed was clearly in control throughout the majority of the bout.

OTHER BOUTS: Harley Race kept his Missouri State title by disqualification over Kerry Von Erich... Rick Martel defeated Roger Kirby... Bruiser Brody beat Crusher Ayala.

MONTREAL, QUE

By Eric Moyal



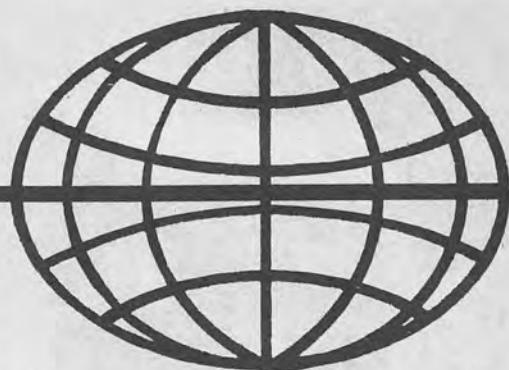
**ANDRE THE GIANT
vs.
ABDULLAH**



The two big men locked themselves in one of the wildest bloodbaths ever to take place in Montreal. Early in the match, Abdullah used some sort of metal foreign object to cut the Giant's forehead open. Andre, however, rammed the Butcher's head into the steel ringpost twice and followed with a series of headbutts that sent Abdullah reeling. The end came when Andre splashed all his 450-plus pounds onto Abdullah. After the match, Abdullah smashed the referee's head into the ringpost.

OTHER BOUTS: Rick Martel and Dino Bravo beat Billy Robinson and Pat Patterson... Gino Brito and Tony Parisi beat Mr. Fuji and Mr. Saito.

WRESTLING CAPITALS



FAYETTEVILLE, NC By Russ Williams



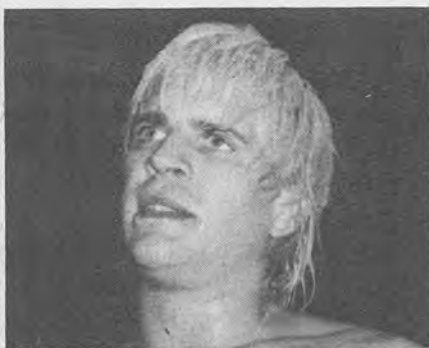
**SWEET BROWN SUGAR
vs.
DORY FUNK JR.**



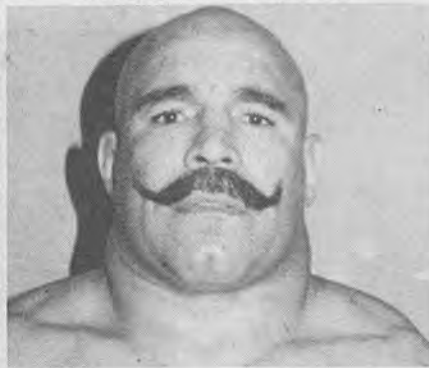
The time had finally come at the Cumberland County Memorial Arena for Sweet Brown Sugar to get an opportunity for revenge against Dory Funk Jr. It was a \$100,000 challenge match, meaning that if Sugar could pin Funk in 15 minutes of the 16-minute time limit, he would walk away with the cash. Boxer Earnie Shavers was special referee for the bout. Funk stalled for the majority of the time limit, and by the time Sugar caught up with him, the 15 minutes were up. Sugar won the match, but not the cash.

OTHER BOUTS: Mike Rotondo beat Paul Jones . . . Roddy Piper and Bob Orton Jr. defeated Greg Valentine and Ric Flair.

ATLANTA, GA By Woody Barton



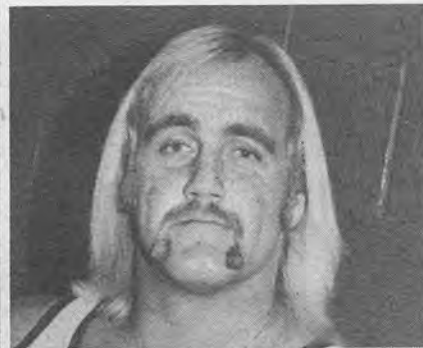
**TOMMY RICH
vs.
HUSSEIN ARAB**



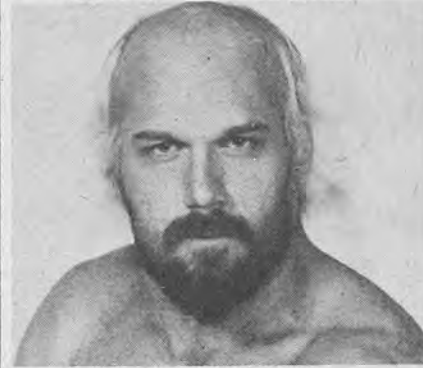
Tommy Rich showed his violent side this night at the Omni. First, he attacked the "Iron Sheik" before the bell rang. Then he ripped his opponent's Kaffiyeh (Arab headress) to shreds. Manager Sonny King ordered his wrestler to "destroy Rich." Rich, however, began biting the Sheik's forehead. King entered the ring, but was smashed out by an irate Rich. The Iron Sheik's only defense was his loaded curved boot, but even that didn't stand in the way of Rich's brutal attack.

OTHER BOUTS: Butch Reed beat Buzz Sawyer in a Cage Match . . . Ivan Koloff defeated Paul Orndorff in a Chain Match . . . Joe Lightfoot drew with Les Thornton.

ST. PAUL, MN By Brad Breitzman



**HULK HOGAN
vs.
JESSE VENTURA**

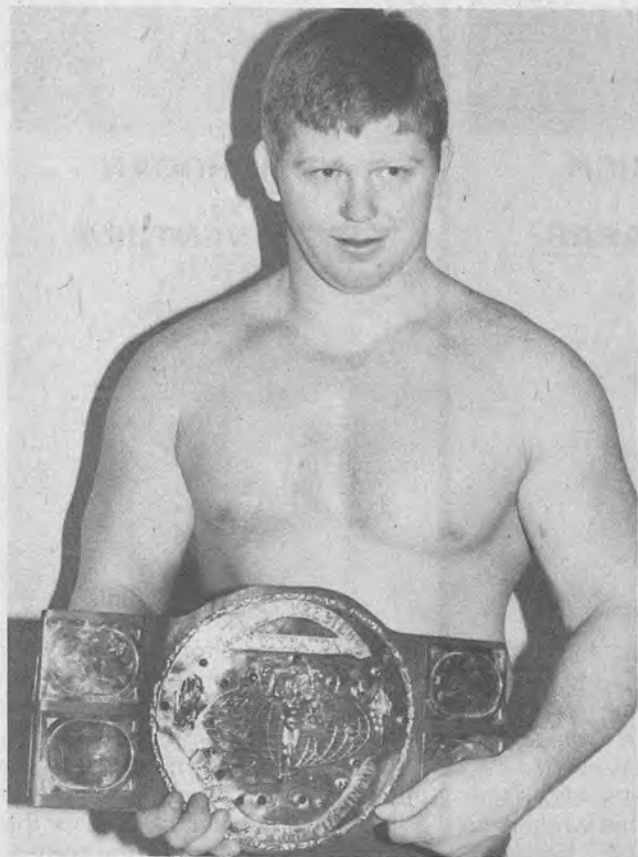


The Hulk was out for revenge in this grudge match against Jesse Ventura. "The Body" was responsible for an injury to Hogan's arm in a previous match. Ventura attacked Hogan severely before the bell rang, which set the tone for the match. It would be a brutal contest between two men who wanted the other crippled. Hogan was stunned, but only briefly. He came back and returned all the punishment Ventura had administered. The two battled fiercely. Chaos broke loose when the Hulk ran outside the ring and returned with a chair. Hogan was disqualified for hitting Ventura with the chair.



Matt Brock's **PLAIN SPEAKING**

NEW YORK, NY: This magazine will be hitting the newsstands during the first week of March, so I think it's time to acknowledge an important anniversary: On February 20, 1983, Bob Backlund celebrated his fifth anniversary as



BOB BACKLUND

WWF champion. He's still got a long way to go to match Bruno, who held the belt 7½ years in his first run as champion, but Backlund's well on his way to coming damn close to matching the Living Legend's WWF championship record. Okay, okay, I know the criticism he gets. I'm not blind, I read the magazines. Hell, I even write

parts of them. But every champion is accused of having the referees save his skin, of picking and choosing opponents, of everything and anything the fans can come up with. It's part of being the titleholder. Frankly, I think Backlund's come through the first five years with flying colors. There are few wrestlers I can think of who would be able to live up to the record Backlund's put together over the last half decade, and that's the true proof of his worth as a champion.

TAMPA, FL: I'm not so sure what's going on down here, but I may have to side with the rulebreakers in this state. You've probably heard



THE MIDNIGHT RIDER

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

about The Midnight Rider. He's kind of a Zorro character who comes charging up to the ring on a horse, or speeding up to the squared circle in a flashy sports car. He wrestles his match, jumps back on his horse or into his car, and disappears into the night . . . as it were. Anyway, The Midnight Rider bears a striking resemblance to Dusty Rhodes, that is picturing Rhodes donned in a black mask, hat, cape, and so forth. Now I don't know about you, but when I hear that a wrestler has lost a Loser Leave State match, as Dusty did several weeks ago, that means to me that he leaves the state for the given amount of time (in this case 60 days), and that's that. If The Midnight Rider really is Dusty, then the American Dream is going to have some serious explaining to do. Breaking the stipulations of a match contract is grounds for being banned from the NWA.

ATLANTA, GA: A feud is a feud, war is hell, but the Georgia area is getting out of hand. How can the local officials condone such actions? Okay, I agree that Ivan Koloff should not be allowed to wear a loaded kneepad into the ring. But how can the Georgia area authorities sanction fighting fire with fire? Paul Orndorff may be mad as hell, and maybe he doesn't want to take it anymore, but to let him wear a football helmet into the ring against Koloff is like giving the Sharks and the Jets license to wage gang war. (Come on, you don't remember *West Side Story*? Shame on you!). And shame on the Georgia officials. I'm getting disgusted with the whole scene down here. Life in Georgia is getting too chaotic.

SAN ANTONIO, TX: The punk from New York City is a long way from home in the Lone Star State, but Adrian Adonis is here in Texas. Boasting about his street-smart heritage and his skills with the sleeperhold, Adonis is matching his skills with Goodnight Irene against the piledriving Bruiser Bob Sweetan. Of course, Sweetan has got his hands full lately: Not only is he engaged in a challenge of skills with Adonis, but he's feuding with Tully Blanchard as well. The Texas wrestling scene has really been



ADRIAN ADONIS

heating up lately, and some interesting matchups have been developing. I'm going to be trying to spend more time in this neck of the woods, so keep your eyes peeled to this column for further information.

ST. PAUL, MN: You may remember an article that appeared in the February 1983 issue of our sister publication *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* entitled "Bockwinkel and Heenan's Plan For Title Reign Number Three: Beat Wanz . . . And Never Wrestle Rick Martel!" Well, part one of that plan was fulfilled a while ago. Nick Bockwinkel, obviously, did regain the AWA belt. And then, he did manage to avoid a title match with Rick Martel for quite some time. Finally, after weeks of legal maneuvering, Martel secured a shot at the AWA championship. Bockwinkel and Heenan did manage to insert two stipulations into the contract, however: Should Bockwinkel get past Martel, he won't have to wrestle him again for at least six months; and should Martel defeat Bockwinkel for the belt, an immediate rematch will be made. The contract leans a little in favor of Bockwinkel and Heenan? Well, that's part of the luxury of being champion. □

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Each day, out of the thousands of letters we receive, hundreds of them are from fans asking the whereabouts of their favorite wrestler. In this special column, we will try to answer the questions you ask the most!

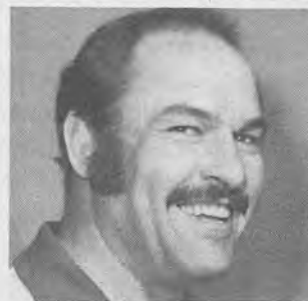


BERRY ORTON

Orton, named by his father, Bob Orton Sr., after manager Wild Red Berry in recognition for the help and guidance the elder Orton received during his own wrestling career, retired after a brief career in wrestling. Berry, the younger brother of Cowboy Bob Orton, is now involved with a successful rock 'n' roll band.

TOMMY GILBERT

The father of WWF star Eddie Gilbert wrestles regularly in the Mid-Atlantic area. A fan favorite, Tommy is lending his aid to Roddy Piper and the wrestlers in "Piper's Palace," helping in the effort to run Sir Oliver Humperdink and his stable of rulebreakers out of the Mid-Atlantic.



LORD ALFRED HAYS

The British star is currently wrestling in his homeland, in addition to managing a number of young wrestlers. Hays is also engaging in some long distance negotiation with the AWA, and if an agreement is reached, he will be back in the USA soon.

CHARLIE LAYE

Laye, who defeated Jack Curtis Sr. to win the NWA light heavyweight championship in 1947, is now Associate Executive Manager of Championship Wrestling From Florida. With a career that stretched from 1932 through 1973, Charlie wrestled in over 8,000 matches. He says his toughest matches were against Leroy McGuirk and Wild Red Berry. He is credited with inventing the "cross-bodyride" maneuver.



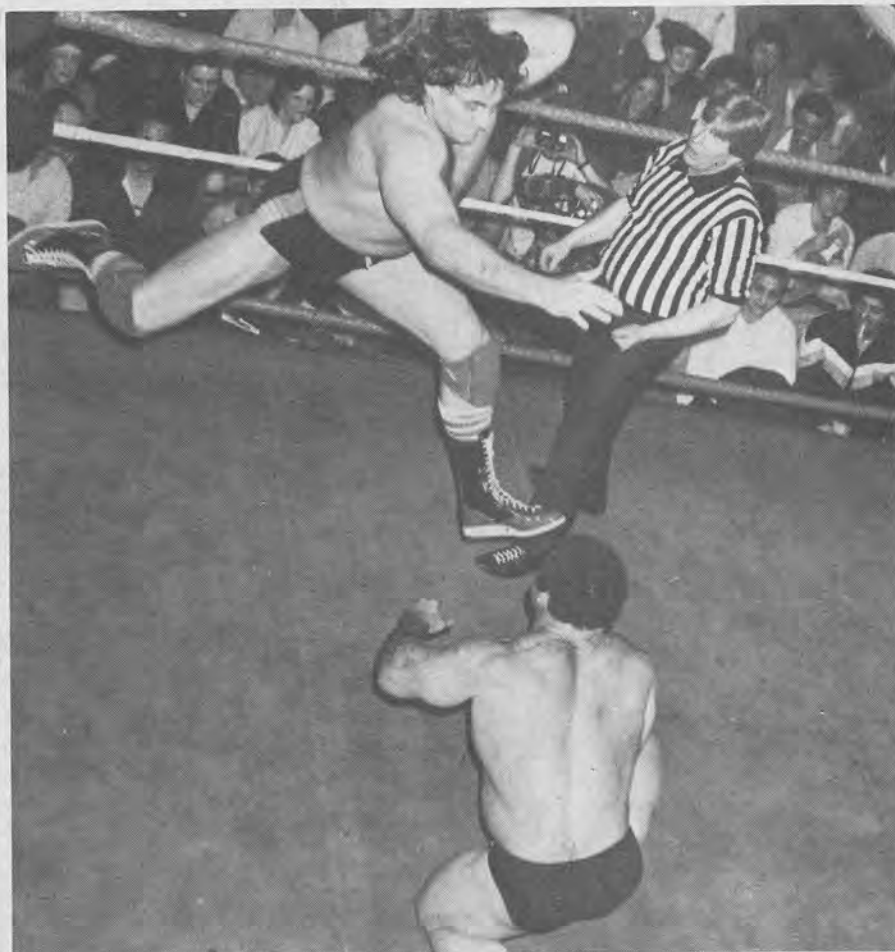
INSIDE WRESTLING

82

capsule profile

GREW UP IN the streets of New York City ("I had it tough as a kid. I had to fight for every little thing I ever wanted") . . . Naturally gravitated toward rough-house wrestling as an outlet for his violent tendencies ("I love to hear the scream of a weak man when I smash him in the face with my rock-hard fist") . . . Currently wrestles in the Texas area ("These Texas wrestlers are nothing but a bunch of wimps") . . . Is now feuding with Bruiser Bob Sweetan ("That maggot couldn't pile-drive my grandmother") . . . Has tag teamed often with Jesse Ventura in both the AWA and WWF ("He's a great partner, a true friend, and a hell of a wrestler") . . . Known as The East-West Connection, Adonis and Ventura captured the AWA tag team title, but lost it to Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell ("Someday we're going to ground the 'High-Flyers'") . . . Managed in the WWF by

ADRIAN ADONIS



Captured in a sensational overhead photo, Adrian Adonis delivers a flying elbow-drop against Ivan Putski.

Fred Blassie ("Blassie taught me some valuable lessons about wrestling, and a few new ways to destroy an opponent") . . . Though known primarily as a rule-breaker, has an extensive repertoire of scientific maneuvers and holds ("I can do it all") . . . His favorite move is the sleeperhold, which he calls "Goodnight Irene" ("Irene has put more men away than a mortician") Generally seen wearing a black leather jacket, hat, and

wrist leathers imbedded with steel studs ("The leathers are great for when I ride my cycle, and the studs always come in handy in a street fight") . . . Maintains that he will someday wear a major singles championship belt ("I deserve a title a hell of a lot more than these soft-headed idiots Flair and Bockwinkel do, and if a hick like Backlund can hold on to the belt for five years, it should be a cinch for me to make it to the top"). □

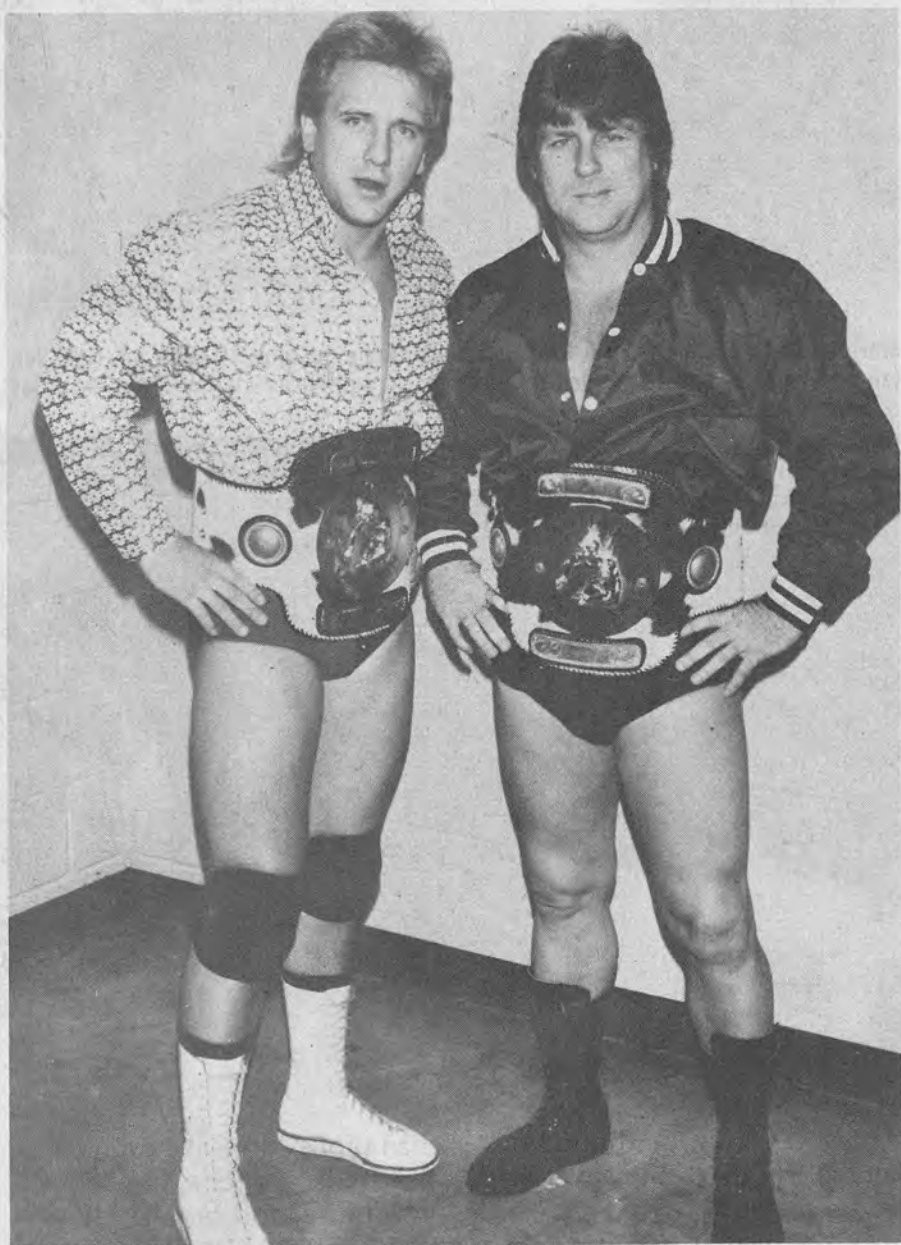
CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



ADRIAN ADONIS

Southwest Tag Team Champions Rick Morton & Ken Lucas:

“PLEASE DON’T PRINT THIS STORY!”



Rick Morton (left) and Ken Lucas allowed photographers just a few minutes to take pictures of them with their Southwest tag team belts.

In a sport in which most participants feel their press coverage is more important than their performance in the ring, Rick Morton and Ken Lucas are true rarities. Not only don't they avail themselves to reporters, they hide from them

YOU'VE NEVER SEEN anything bad written about Rick Morton and Ken Lucas. Then again, there hasn't been much at all written about the two men who currently hold the Southwest tag team belts.

It would be an understatement to say that this team is publicity shy. Mysteriously, they're hardly seen outside the ring. They arrive at the arena and depart without any fanfare at all. They are quiet men in a sport in which the most colorful often get the most opportunities. Some have speculated that there is something in their past that they are hiding. Many have expressed an interest recently in

finding out why they are so elusive.

Several newspapermen tried to interview Lucas and Morton before the duo's recent title defense against The Masked Grapplers. More than an hour before the evening's matches were to begin, newspaper writers and photographers swarmed around Lucas and Morton's dressing room door waiting for them to show up.

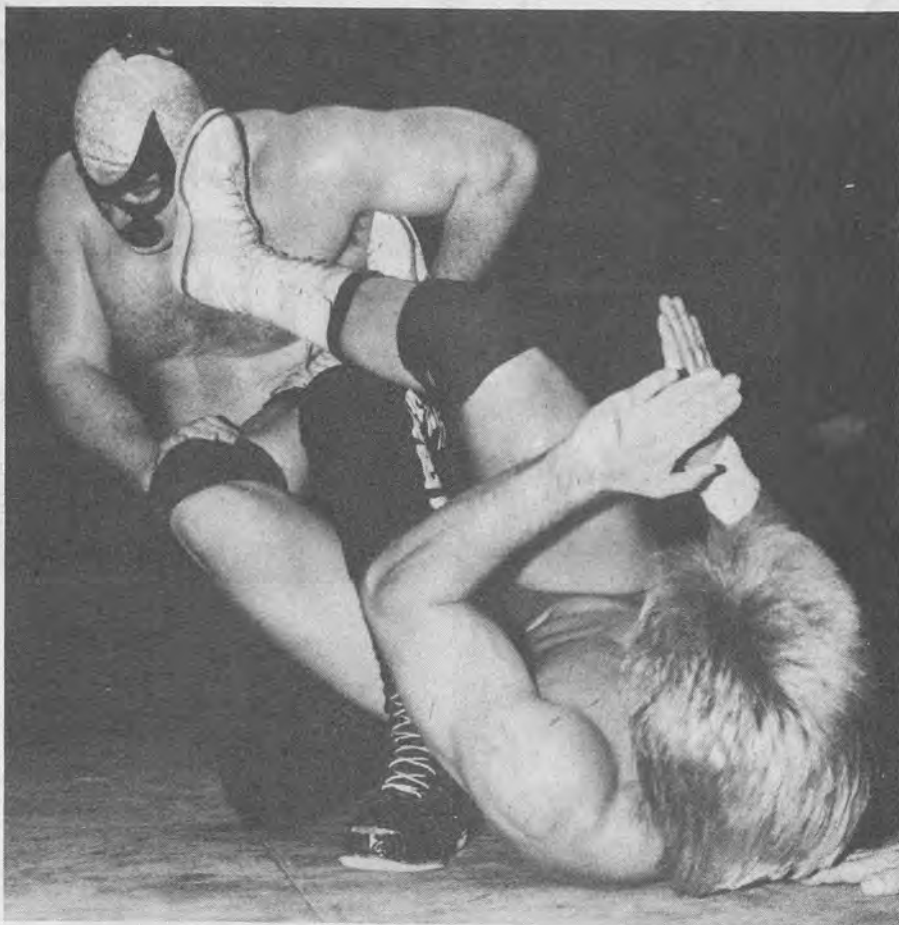
One reporter pressed his ear to the door and announced that he thought he heard someone speaking inside. A photographer boldly pushed the door open. Morton and Lucas were, in fact, there already. They were there the whole time the newspaper reporters had been outside waiting.

The two sat next to each other, Morton holding a clipboard and pen in his hands, Lucas staring intently at a yellow pad on the clipboard. They looked up from the clipboard and put up their hands to shield their eyes from the photographers' flashing strobe lights. Lucas immediately protested: "Stop it, close the door." Morton jumped up and threw himself against the door, slamming it shut.

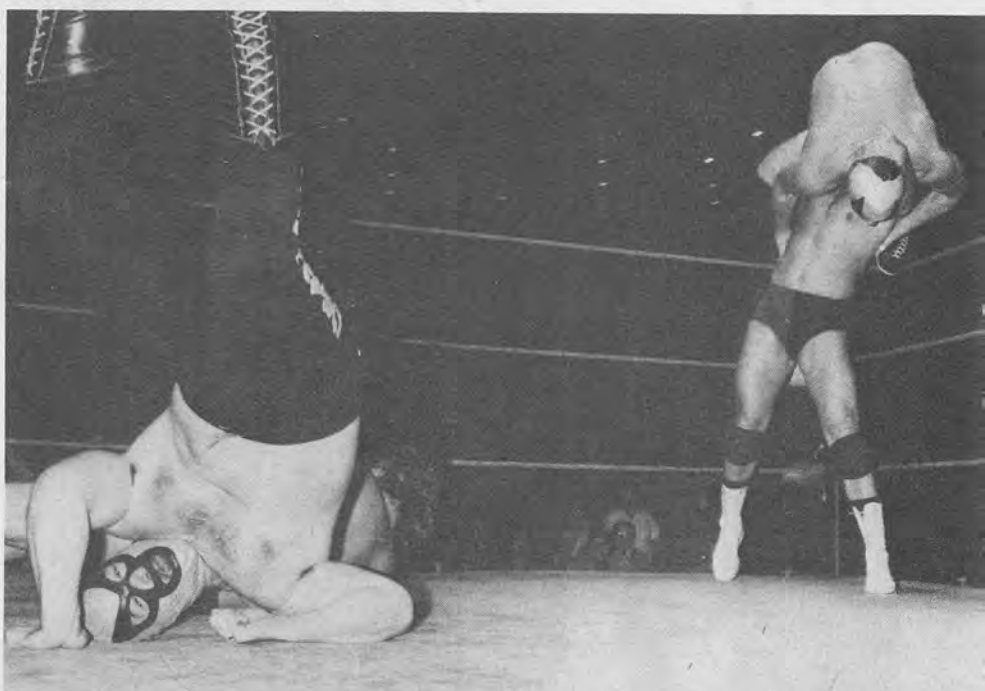
The press members were persistent, however. They continued to knock on the door. Morton and Lucas ignored them at first. About five minutes later, Morton screamed, "You want photos, you've got 'em, just give us a few minutes of quiet, please."

"Come back after tonight's first match. We'll pose for photos, we'll answer questions, we'll stand on our heads for you. But we need this time for ourselves. Please leave us alone. You can have as much as you want from us as long as it's later."

Those words seemed to satisfy the newspaper reporters, and they dispersed, buzzing with excitement as they walked to the press area at ringside. The



Morton frees himself from a Grappler's leglock by pushing off with his right leg (above). Morton and Lucas get the best of the action as all four men battle at once (below).



cynical, curious, doubting body known as the wrestling press had won a battle of sorts.

As the first match drew to a finish, the reporters once again began to amass outside the

champions' dressing room. The match in progress had ended and the second one had begun when Lucas finally opened the door.

"Okay," he said, "let's get this

out of the way."

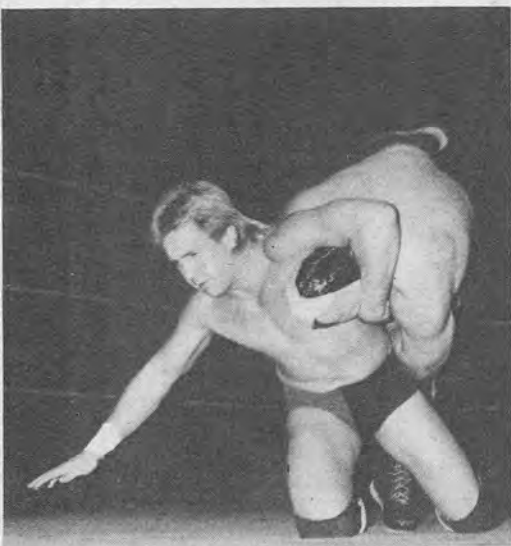
Morton interrupted the first question. "Before you start," he said, "I wrote something, I guess you'd call it a prepared statement. I think it will answer a lot of your questions. Now I'm no reporter, so I don't know how this is gonna sound. Kenny's gonna read it, go ahead."

Lucas read from the yellow legal-sized pad. "We know we haven't exactly been cooperative with the press, but we have good reason for that. It's all well and good to have your name and picture in magazines and all, but that's not why we became professional wrestlers."

"We didn't get into this sport for the glamour of it. We don't do it for the money, either. We are here because we enjoy what



It is very important to Morton and Lucas that they be allowed to concentrate on their title defenses; they will not allow themselves to be distracted by the press. Morton executes a hiproll takedown (left). Lucas brings one of the challengers to unfriendly territory (above). Morton stops one of the Grappler's charges with a dropkick to the chest (bottom).



Aside from what was to happen in the title match, there was no story. But as far as *Inside Wrestling* was concerned, there was indeed a story. It was a story of two men who are in this sport to wrestle and only wrestle. And that is a refreshing change of pace in a sport that is plagued with egomaniacs and pretty boys who work harder outside the

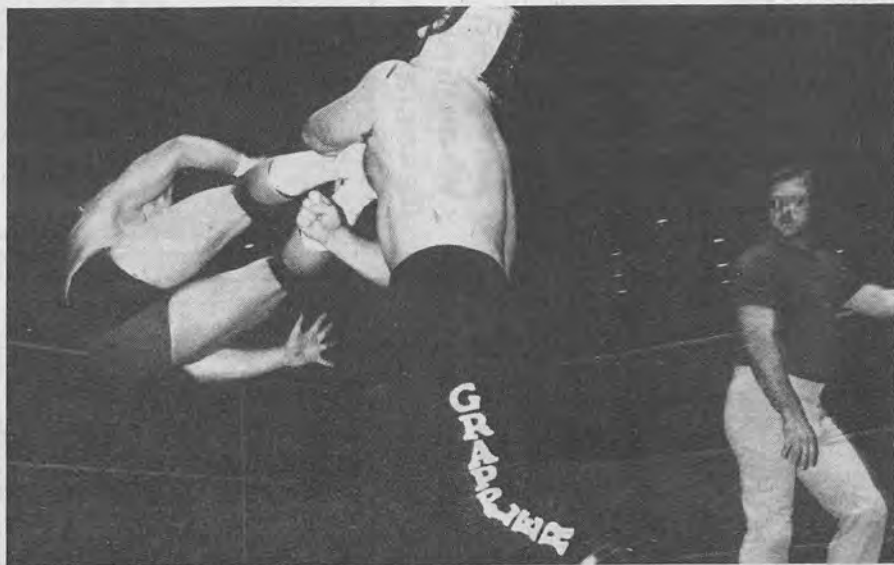
ring with their mouths than within.

Morton and Lucas did live up to their promise, posing for the photographers for a few minutes. At first, they seemed genuinely ill at ease, but as the flashes went off, they relaxed more and more. And maybe, just maybe, they enjoyed a little bit of attention. They've certainly earned it. □

we are doing. That is probably also the reason we are champions. We aren't into being famous. Being famous just infringes on your preparation time. It's too much of an influence, a bad influence.

"We'd rather not be interviewed. There's nothing interesting about us. We wrestle. If you want a story, watch us in the ring tonight. But as far as our personalities are concerned, there's no story. Please, don't print this story!"

The newspaper reporters were silent. They were disgusted.

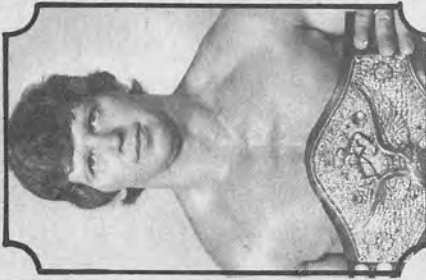


INSIDE WRESTLING'S

OFFICIAL RATINGS

These Ratings Are Compiled With The Assistance Of Top Wrestlers, Promoters, And Reporters. They Are Universally Accepted As Official

World Wrestling Federation

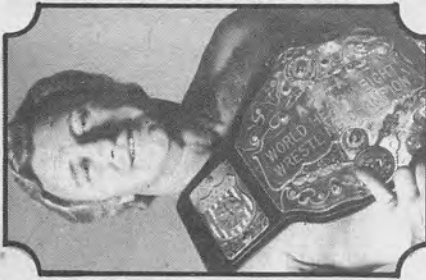


Champion:
BOB BACKLUND



1—MAGNIFICENT
MURACO

American Wrestling Association



Champion:
NICK BOCKWINKEL



1—RICK MARTEL

National Wrestling Alliance



Champion:
RIC FLAIR



1—GREG VALENTINE

Most Popular Wrestlers

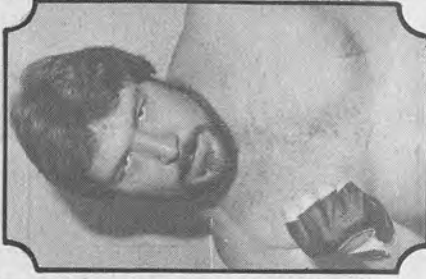


1—JIMMY SNUKA



2—ANDRE THE GIANT

Most Hated Wrestlers



1—TED DiBIASE



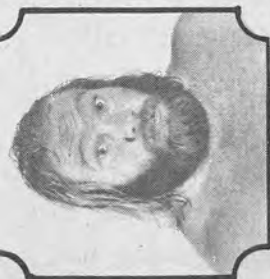
2—KEVIN SULLIVAN

Tag Teams



1—SGT. SLAUGHTER
& DON KERNODLE

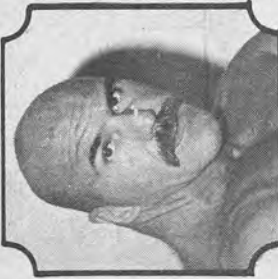




2—JOHN STUDD

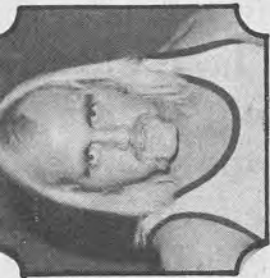


3—JIMMY SNUKA



4—SUPERSTAR
GRAHAM

- 5—PEDRO MORALES
- 6—RAY STEVENS
- 7—ROCKY JOHNSON
- 8—PLAYBOY BUDDY
ROSE
- 9—EDDIE GILBERT
- 10—MR. FUJI



2—HULK HOGAN

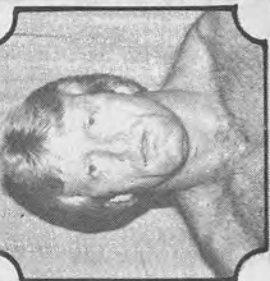


3—WAHOO
McDANIEL



4—JERRY LAWLER

- 5—KEN PATERA
- 6—JESSE VENTURA
- 7—CRUSHER
BLACKWELL
- 8—TULLY
BLANCHARD
- 9—MAD DOG VACHON
- 10—GREG GAGNE



2—PAUL ORNDORFF



3—MIKE GRAHAM



4—KERRY VON ERICH

- 5—JACK BRISCO
- 6—BOB ARMSTRONG
- 7—BARRY WINDHAM
- 8—HARLEY RACE
- 9—RODDY PIPER
- 10—BRUCE REED



3—RICK MARTEL



4—HULK HOGAN



5—DUSTY RHODES

- 6—BOB BACKLUND
- 7—JUNKYARD DOG
- 8—JACK BRISCO
- 9—TOMMY RICH
- 10—DAVID VON ERICH



3—MAGNIFICANT
MURACO



4—RIC FLAIR



5—NICK BOCKWINKEL

- 6—SUPERSTAR
GRAHAM
- 7—BUZZ SAWYER
- 8—GREG VALENTINE
- 10—TULLY
BLANCHARD



2—GREG GAGNE &
JIM BRUNZELL



3—JAY & JULES
STRONGBOW



- 4—THE SAMOANS
- 5—THE MOONDOGS
- 6—THE FABULOUS
KANGAROOS
- 7—THE FREEBIRDS
- 8—RICK MORTON &
KEN LUCAS
- 9—RICK STEAMBOAT
& JAY YOUNGBLOOD
- 10—CRUSHER BLACK-
WELL & SHEIK
ADNAN AL-KAISSIE

The Rich-Sawyer Bl

THE BLOODY FEUD between Tommy Rich and Buzz Sawyer has burst out of its confines. What was a localized squall has escalated into a true hurricane of terror, and is traveling north from its Georgia base into America's heartland.

Like a perverted game of cat and mouse, Rich and Sawyer chase each other from state to state, each swearing to avenge the other's previous victory. What is left for the fans is a trail of vicious, animalistic brawls that bear no resemblance to the sport of professional wrestling.

Fans from Atlanta to Huntington, West Virginia, to Dayton, Ohio, to Lansing, Michigan, have been horrified by

the brutality that prevails in the ring during a Sawyer-Rich contest. They are not only horrified; they are disgusted.

In Huntington, a man walked out of the arena with his three small children, swearing that he'd never let them see or read about either man again.

Marie Romanelli, a fan in her late 20s, stood in the arena lobby during the latter stages of the two wrestlers' most recent contest in Lansing. "I couldn't stand to watch it," she said. "It was like they didn't even know the audience was there. I don't think they would've cared if the arena was empty, as long as they got a chance to beat on each other. It was sick."

Indeed, Rich and Sawyer don't

care if the crowd is watching or not. "If I could catch him out on the street, I would," Sawyer said. "But he runs away so well. The only place I can keep him from running is in the ring, and even then I have to lock the pig in a cage sometimes."

Of course, Rich's side of the story is completely different. "He just keeps coming back for more," Tommy said. "Fine with me, man. If he wants his skull busted open like a ripe watermelon again, I'll be more than happy to do it. More than happy."

Meanwhile, the careers of these two wrestlers have been put on hold while they pursue each other. Many fans regret that Rich has

(Continued on page 48)

GEORGIA TERROR ON TOUR



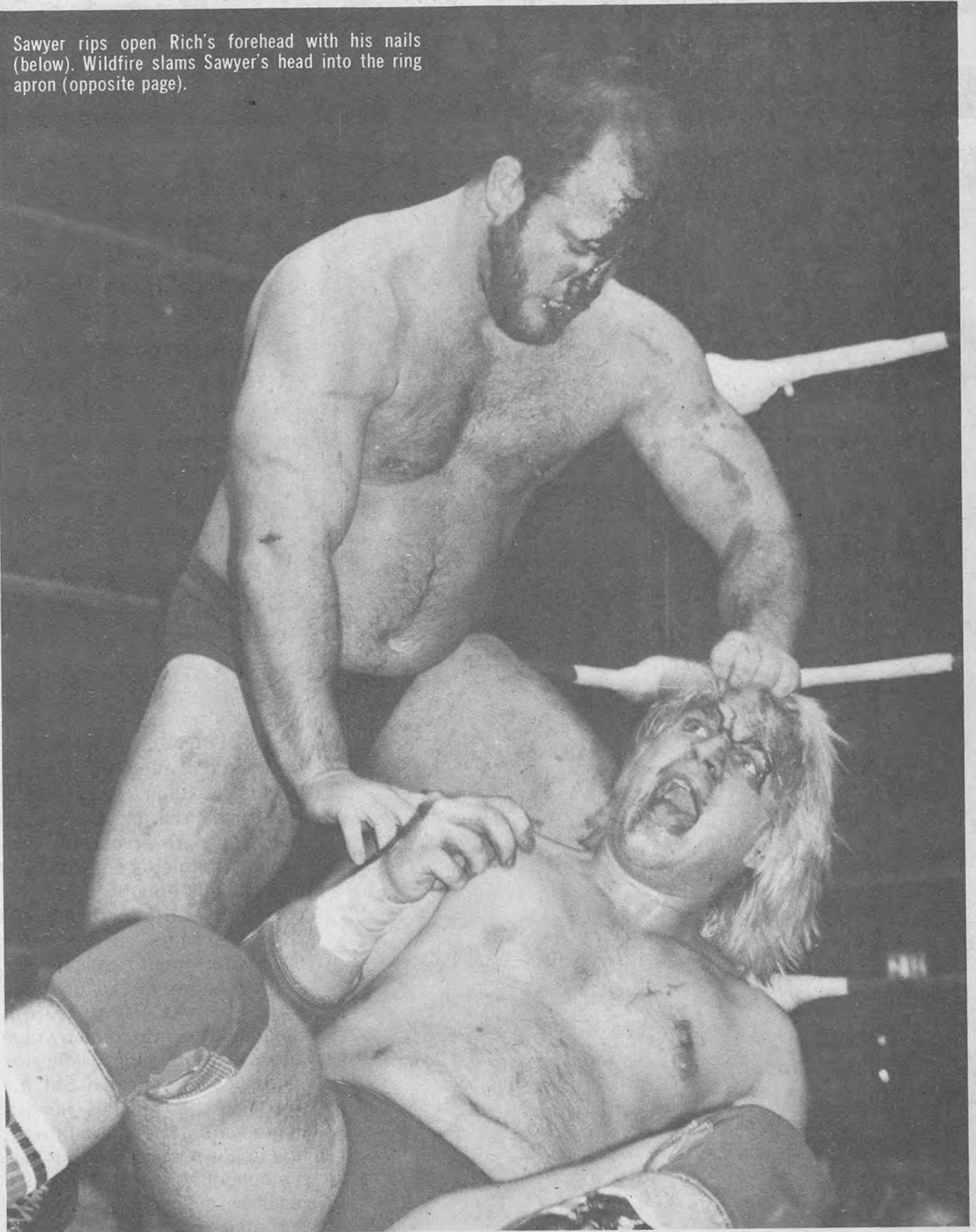
They travel like the circus, but instead of a lion and liontamer in the ring, there are just two lions, ripping and clawing with no regard for each other's lives.

Tommy Rich and Buzz Sawyer are shamelessly exhibiting their most violent tendencies for an entire nation

PHOTOS BY BRAD McFARLIN

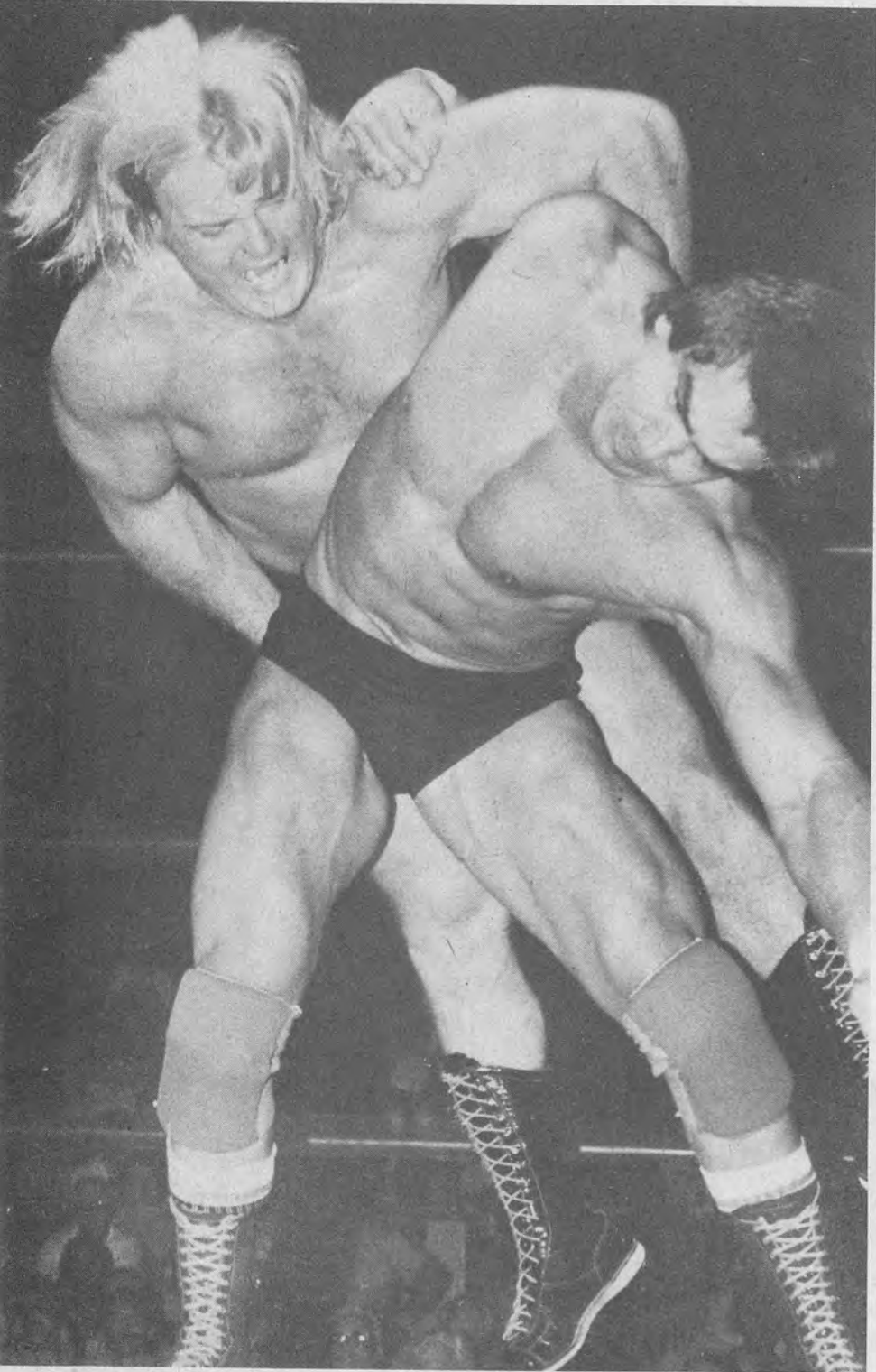
oodbath Continues

Sawyer rips open Rich's forehead with his nails (below). Wildfire slams Sawyer's head into the ring apron (opposite page).



Valentine vs. Steamboat

HOW THE "OLD" DESTROYING THE "NEW"



Rick Steamboat possesses the physical capabilities and intelligence to become one of the best wrestlers alive. But he's got a temper, a temper that at times becomes uncontrollable, a temper that can block his path to wrestling immortality

HIS FRIENDS SAY they can see it coming. Rick Steamboat is wrestling a tough match. He struggles harder, draws upon the special reserves only professional athletes possess, and still it isn't enough. Then his opponent starts breaking the rules. At this point, Rick's friends turn their heads away.

They know what's going to happen. As if decreed, Steamboat is overcome by rage and starts brawling wildly. His strategies are thrown out the window, his justly famous maneuvers get crude and ugly, and finally he's brought down to his opponent's level. The usual result is a double-disqualification, and that makes an ambitious

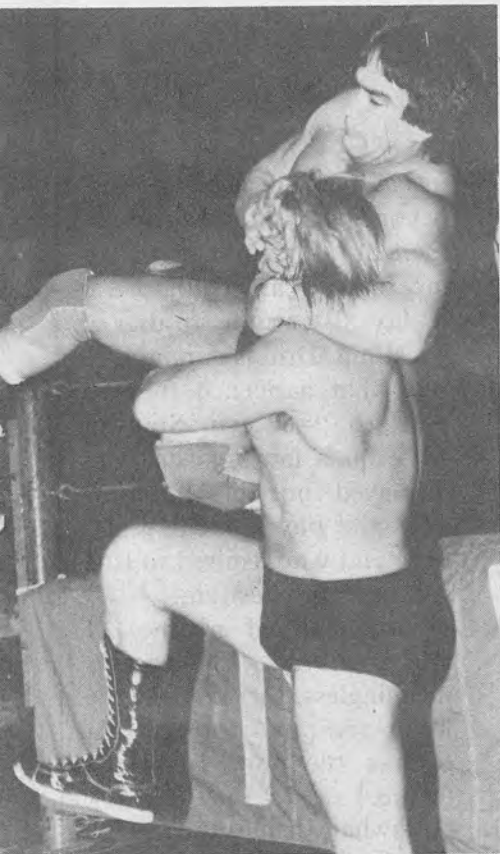
PHOTOS BY EDDIE CHESLOCK

For The U.S. Title: **RICK STEAMBOAT IS RICK STEAMBOAT**

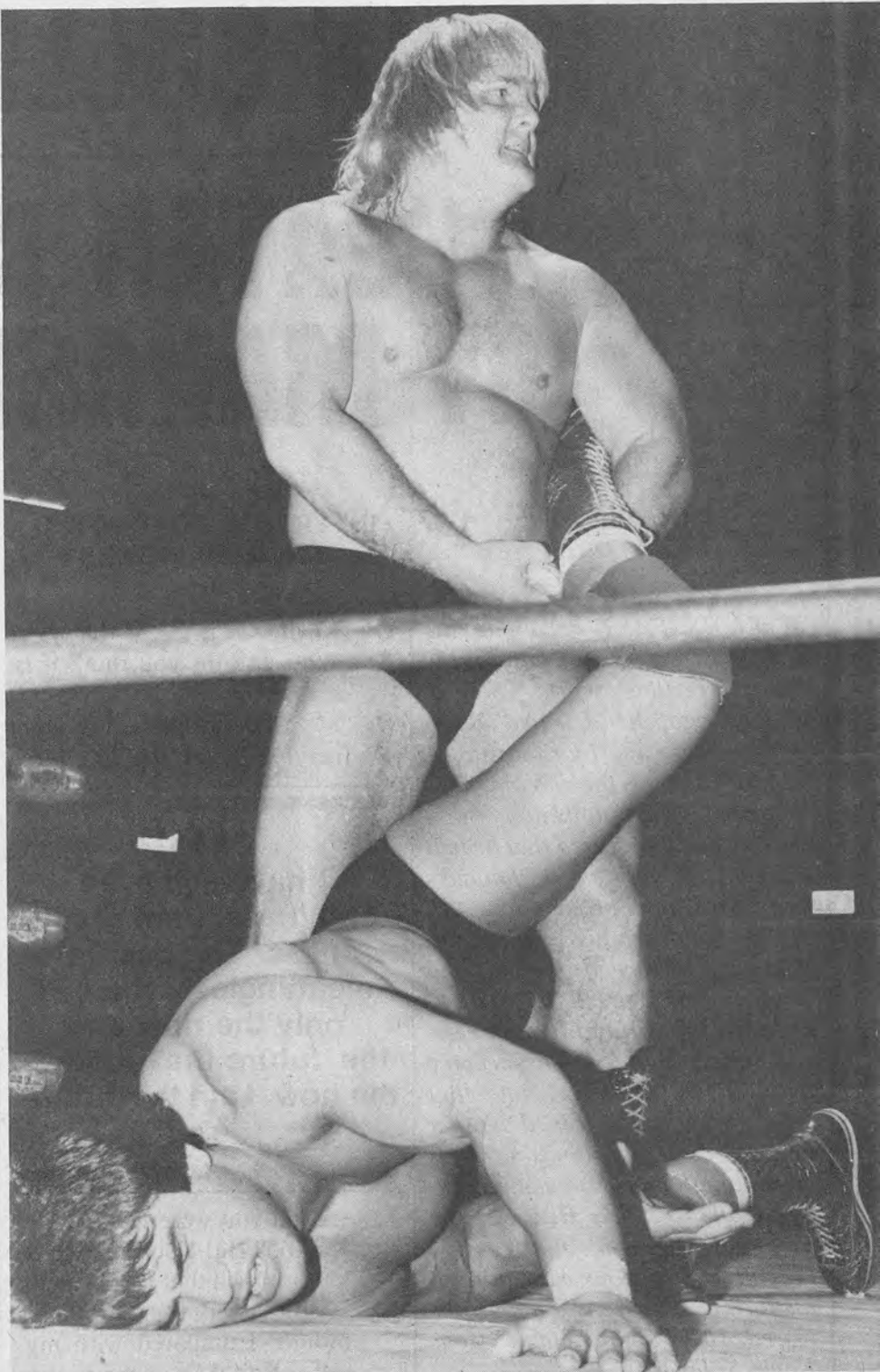
athlete like Rick the real loser. Many of his friends don't stay in the arena for the inevitable end.

There was a time when people hoped that was all behind Rick. As he matured as a wrestler, he seemed more able to control his fiery temper. His matches were superb exhibitions of wrestling control. People began to refer to him as the professional's professional. Conversations argued not whether Rick was to become NWA champion, but when.

(Continued on page 62)



Steamboat wrestled brilliantly (opposite page) until Valentine disobeyed the ref's order to break while Rick was under the ropes (right). Then Steamboat lost his composure (above).



HOTSEAT

KEVIN SULLIVAN

"SATAN IS MY MANAGER!"

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED
BY CRAIG PETERS

HE IS FAST becoming the most enigmatic figure in the entire wrestling world. Several months ago, he defeated Barry Windham for the Florida title. A month later, he took Windham's Southern championship. Soon after, it was discovered that he had placed a bounty on Windham's body: \$1,100 per broken bone. All of a sudden, his feud with Windham screeched to a halt and he reemerged with a different look, a different attitude, and the contention that he had become involved in satanism. Now that Jake Roberts has joined him, it appears as if a satanism cult is developing and threatening to engulf all of Florida. He used to be a muscular, dynamic fan favorite; now he is a hideous caricature of his former self. He is a man to be feared. He is unpredictable. He is Kevin Sullivan.

Q: Kevin . . . is . . . is that you?

A: Who else do you think it is, maggot?

Q: I . . . I don't know, I thought maybe . . . I thought for a

“

I have achieved greatness. I am greatness. The past is meaningless, there is only the now and the future that follows the now. I am the future.

”

second you were Kabuki!

A: Kabuki? Ha! You've got to be kidding! All that freak can do is spit green fog out of his mouth. Compared with myself, Kabuki's powers are

insignificant. I have powers beyond the comprehension of mere mortal man. I am power incarnate, I am truth, I am reality. I am the future of wrestling. Doll is coming.

Q: But what happened to your past, to the Kevin Sullivan who was a fan favorite, who displayed one of the most awesome physiques in wrestling and who aspired to true greatness in wrestling?

A: I have achieved greatness. I am greatness. The past is meaningless, there is only the now and the future that follows the now. I am the future.

Q: And what, then, is the future?

A: The future is a place where Kevin Sullivan reigns supreme. The future is a place where Jake Roberts wields powers as he has never





“

The Midnight Rider is a paradox. He does not believe in the energies of the witching hour. His is an attitude that is weak, that will be easily destroyed.

”

dreamed he could possess. The future is a place where the American Dream does not exist, where Dusty Rhodes has been eliminated. The future is now. The Dream is dead. I am not a dream, I am reality. Doll is coming.

Q: Wait a second, that's the first time I ever heard you speak the name of Dusty Rhodes!

A: That's right, Dusty Rhodes is no more. I have driven him out of wrestling, but he still tries to return. I know that Rhodes and the Midnight Rider are one and the same. The Midnight Rider is a paradox. He does not believe in the energies of the witching hour. His is an attitude that is weak, that will be easily destroyed. I will be instrumental in destroying him. Kevin Sullivan will be instrumental in destroying him.



Q: Why do you do that?

A: Do what?

Q: What you just did, you speak of yourself and Kevin Sullivan as if they are two distinct personalities. I've heard you refer to yourself as Charlie, and I've heard you call yourself the Prince of Darkness. Why?

A: Why? *Why?* You might as well ask why the thunder follows the lightning, why sin follows man, and why hell follows sin. I am who I am, I am the Prince of Darkness and I am reality. I am victory and I am the future of wrestling. I cannot be defeated, nor can I be destroyed. I am eternal. I am eternity. I am Charlie. Doll is coming.

Q: You keep saying that. Who is Doll?

A: Doll is Doll. Foes of reality have need to fear Doll. Those who exist in a Dream world need fear Doll. All others will welcome Doll as savior and author of the future. Doll is a mirror and a gateway to

Sullivan leaps upon the fallen Midnight Rider.

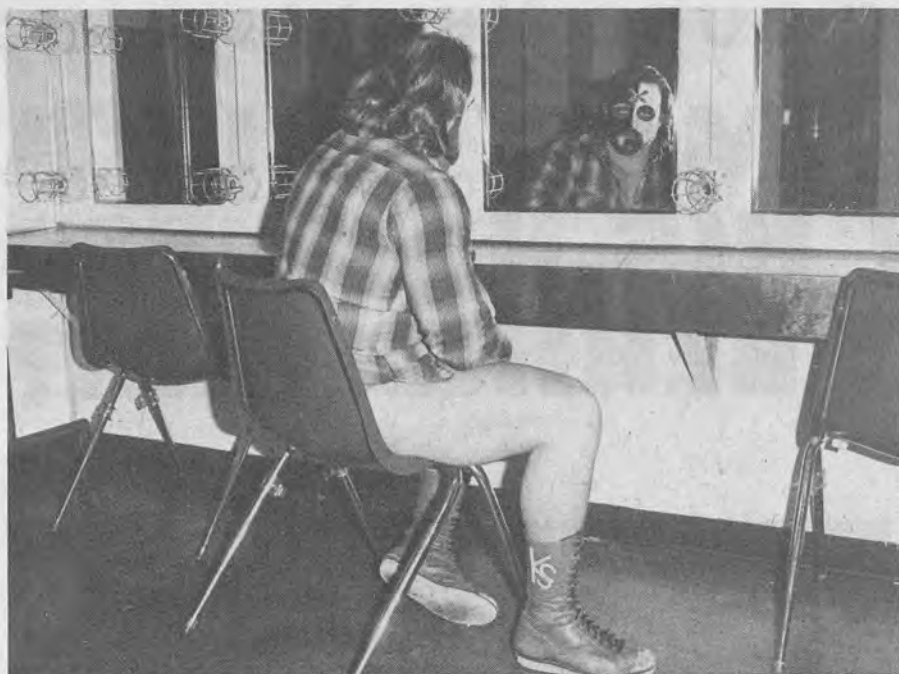
the soul of tomorrow.

Q: I'm glad you mentioned mirrors, because I notice that you use mirrors a great deal.

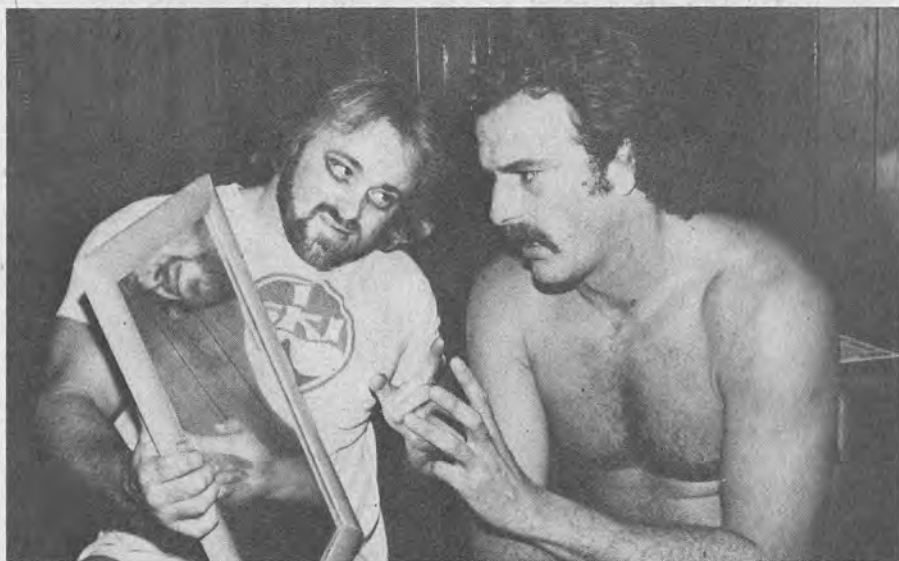
A: I do not use, I simply act. I do what I must do. All else follows.

Q: But I have seen you use mirrors to hypnotize Jake Roberts, and I notice that right now you are staring not directly at me, but through the reflection in the mirror. Why? Are you afraid to look directly into the eyes of another person? Are you afraid to look into the eyes of the media?

A: I see that there are many things that must be made clear. First of all, I did not hypnotize Jake Roberts. He joined me of his own volition, which was perhaps the wisest choice he has yet made in his career. Jake is becoming a wise man who realizes the necessities of existing on the



Sullivan conducted this entire interview while looking at Associate Editor Craig Peters through a mirror (above). The Prince of Darkness uses a mirror (the "gateway to the soul of tomorrow") to hypnotize Jake Roberts (below).



plane of reality and of avoiding the pains and defeats of living in a Dream world. Second of all, I do not use mirrors for anything. As all men, I see the world reflected through a mirror, and when the world I see displeases me, I strive to change it. I am already in the process of changing many things about the wrestling world, and there are many more things that I have not begun to deal with that will soon fall under my jurisdiction as well. Finally, I am not afraid to look into the

eyes of another person, I am not afraid to be exposed to the media. If I were afraid, you would never have been granted this interview. It is the media, and it is other wrestlers, and it is wrestling fans who do not understand who are afraid to look into *my* eyes.

Q: I feel I must ask you a question, and I hope you will be truthful in answering me.

A: I always speak the truth.

Q: Do you worship Satan?

A: I worship victory.

Q: You didn't answer my question.



“

I believe in the power of Satan. I believe that in his power is the means to achieve victory. In the power of Satan is the knowledge that leads to additional power.

”

A: But I did speak the truth.

Q: Do you believe in Satan?

A: I believe in the power of Satan, yes. I believe that in his power is the means to achieve victory. In the power of Satan is the knowledge that leads to additional power, and to mastery over one's opponents. Satan is my manager, you might say.

Q: Do you believe Satan guides your career?

A: I believe I guide my career.

Q: Do you believe you and Satan are one and the same?

A: I believe I am the Prince of Darkness. I believe I am reality. I believe in power and in victory. I believe in each man being provided the right to his own mind. If you care to believe that I am Satan, that I worship Satan, or that I am forming a satanism cult, that is up to you. I also believe that this interview is finished. □

Snuka Superflys Stevens: **CAN JIMMY SNUKA PUT HIS HAUNTED PAST BEHIND HIM?**

By Matt Brock

IF YOU'VE NEVER been to New York City's Madison Square Garden, you should know that it sits directly atop Penn Station. After the matches in the Garden, all you have to do is take one escalator downstairs to find the chaotic train station, where 20,000 or so people scramble from here to there and back again trying to find the right train to take them home.

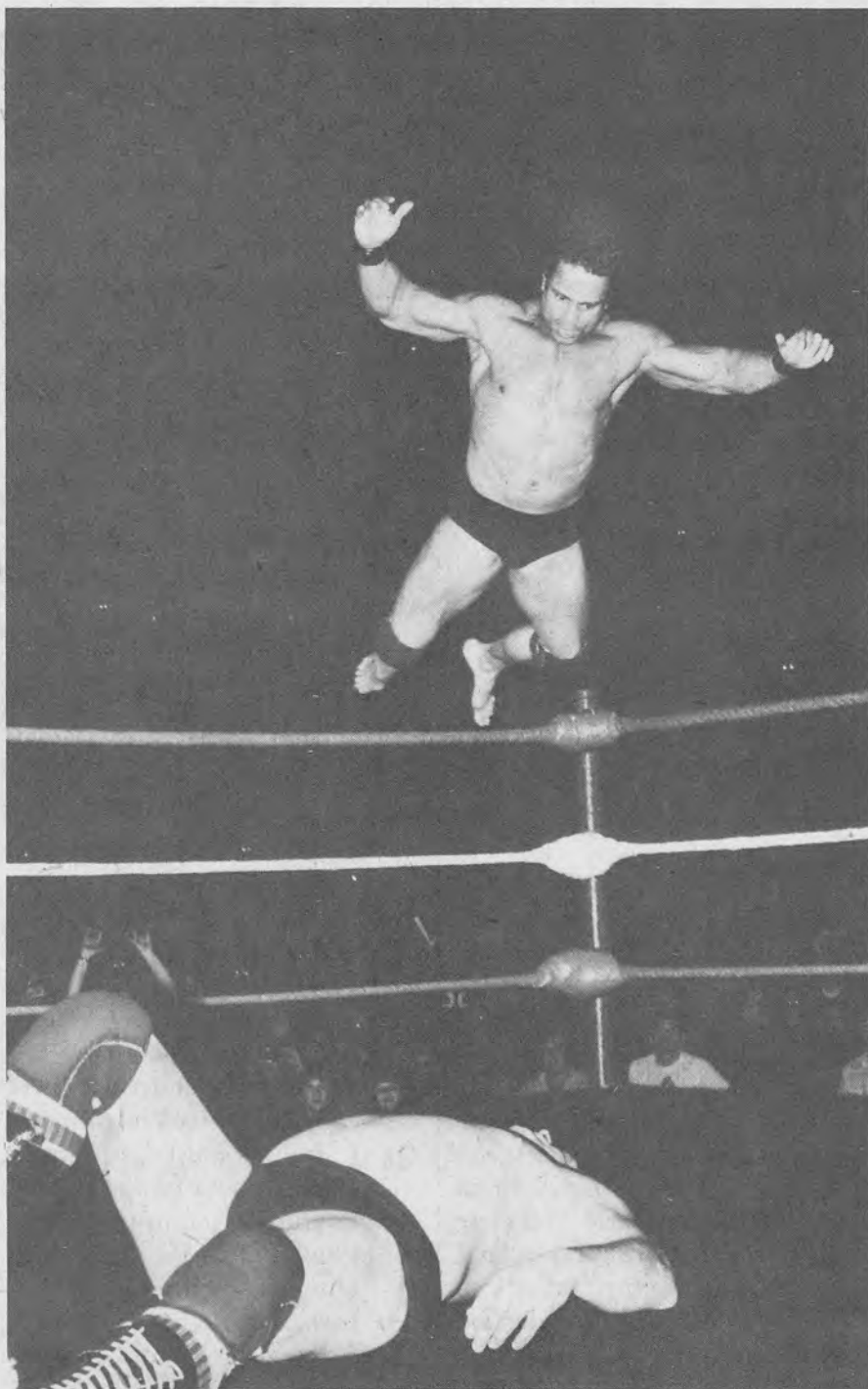
I hate that atmosphere of chaos, which is precisely why after the matches I either hightail it the hell away from the whole crazy scene, or I find sanctuary in Penn Station at Pete Smith's Hall of Fame bar.

All of this is to get around to telling you that I was sitting in Pete Smith's after the Madison Square Garden match between Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka and Ray "The Crippler" Stevens. I was talking wrestling with Tom Dobins, an old friend from way back when I used to dabble in radio.

I played with the ice in my Scotch and soda as Tom ordered up another beer and a shot of Yukon Jack.

"Good matches tonight," Tom said. "I think Backlund has finally put the lid on Superstar Graham. As far as I'm concerned, Graham ought to go back into private training permanently."

It had been the night of the first Lumberjack Match in

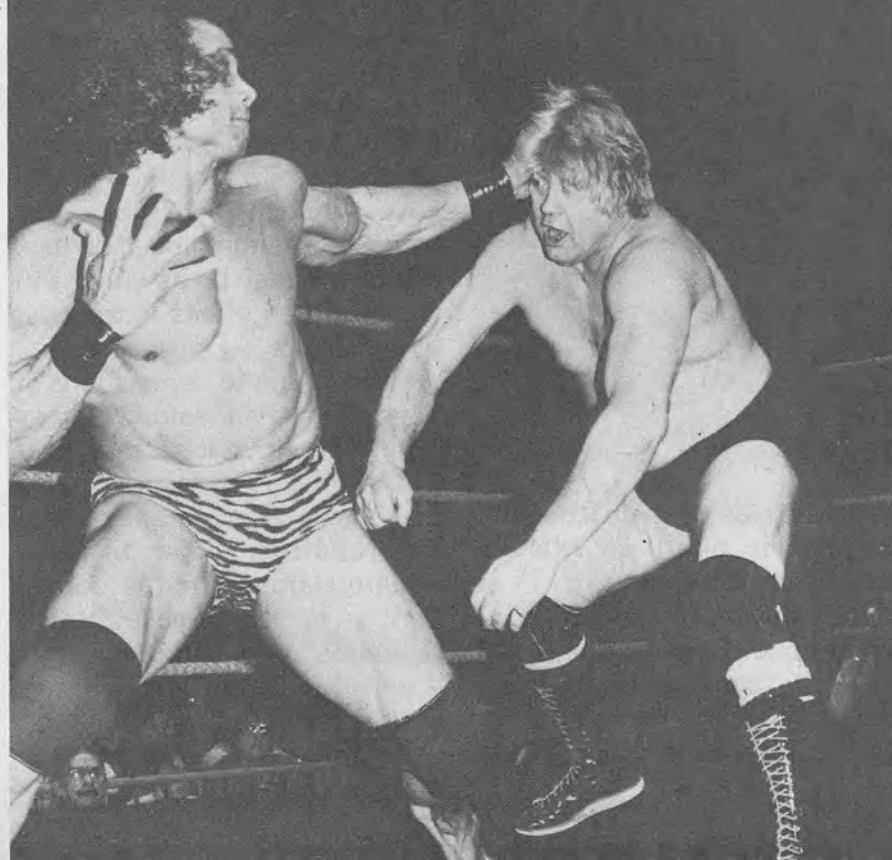


PHOTOS BY BILL APTER & CRAIG PETERS



It has been a busy year for Jimmy Snuka. He has escaped from the managerial clutches of Captain Lou Albano, taken on Buddy Rogers as a manager, and gained a measure of revenge against the man who placed him in the hospital, Ray Stevens. Will Snuka now be able to resume a normal career, or have the events of the past year affected him too deeply?

Snuka dominated Stevens at Madison Square Garden with judo throws (top) and karate thrusts (below), but it wasn't until a week later at the Capital Centre in Maryland that he had the opportunity to perform the crowd-pleasing "superfly" (opposite page).



Madison Square Garden history. According to special referee Swede Hanson, Graham submitted under the pressures of Backlund's chicken wing. I took another swig of my drink. I like Backlund, but I've never been too impressed with the chicken wing.

Anyway, Tom continued his analysis of the night's events while I quietly sipped away.

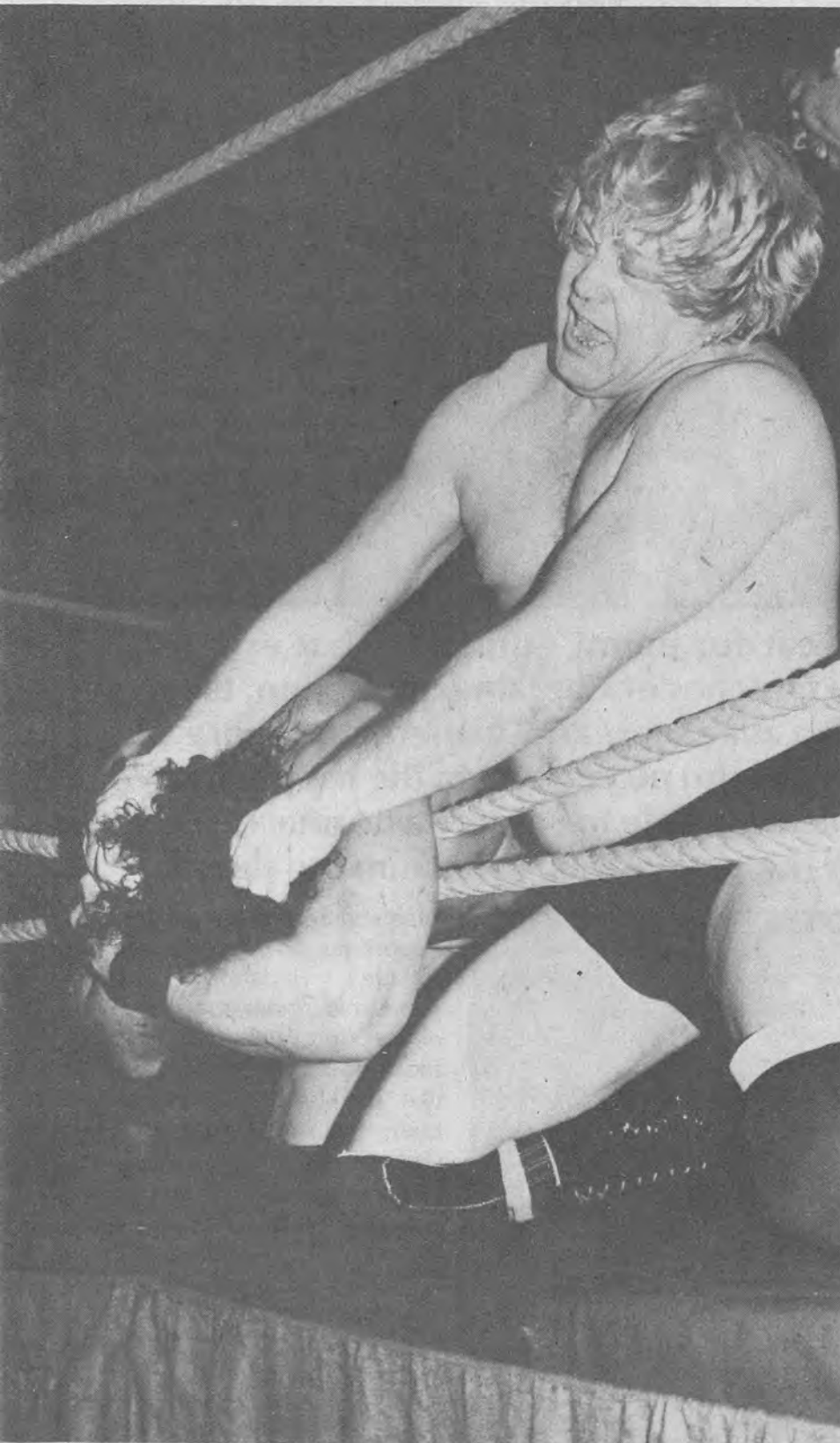
"One thing I was very disappointed in, though."

I asked him what that happened to be.

"In Snuka's match with Stevens, he never managed to get off the dive from the top rope," Dobins said. He was right. A lot of fans were sorry Snuka didn't damage Stevens as much as they, or he, had hoped.

"Doesn't matter," I said, "he'll have his chance next week at the Capital Centre in Maryland."

Tom almost choked on his



shot of Yukon Jack. "Another match? You've got to be kidding."

Out of the corner of my eye, I could see the look of smugness on my face reflected in the mirror behind the bartender. One of my character faults: I like to know that I know something

someone else doesn't. It doesn't happen too often, so when it does I milk it for all I can.

"Not only that," I added, "but I understand Rogers has been able to sign several more matches with Stevens for Snuka. If he doesn't superfly the

Grabbing two fistfuls of hair, Stevens forces Snuka's throat into the middle rope. Stevens has no personal interest in Snuka's demise; he is being paid—and paid very well—by Captain Lou Albano and Fred Blassie to do a job. Snuka's very life is consumed with the annihilation of those three men's careers.

Crippler in one place, he's bound to do it in the next."

Tom was calmer now, and his analytical mind was beginning to absorb the information it had just received.

"This is not good," Tom announced. "Snuka should be above this sort of thing. It's like what Sir Oliver Humperdink has been doing to Jimmy Valiant for the last year and a half. Do you want to see Snuka campaigning against Stevens until 1984?"

I ordered another Scotch and soda while Tom continued his extrapolations.

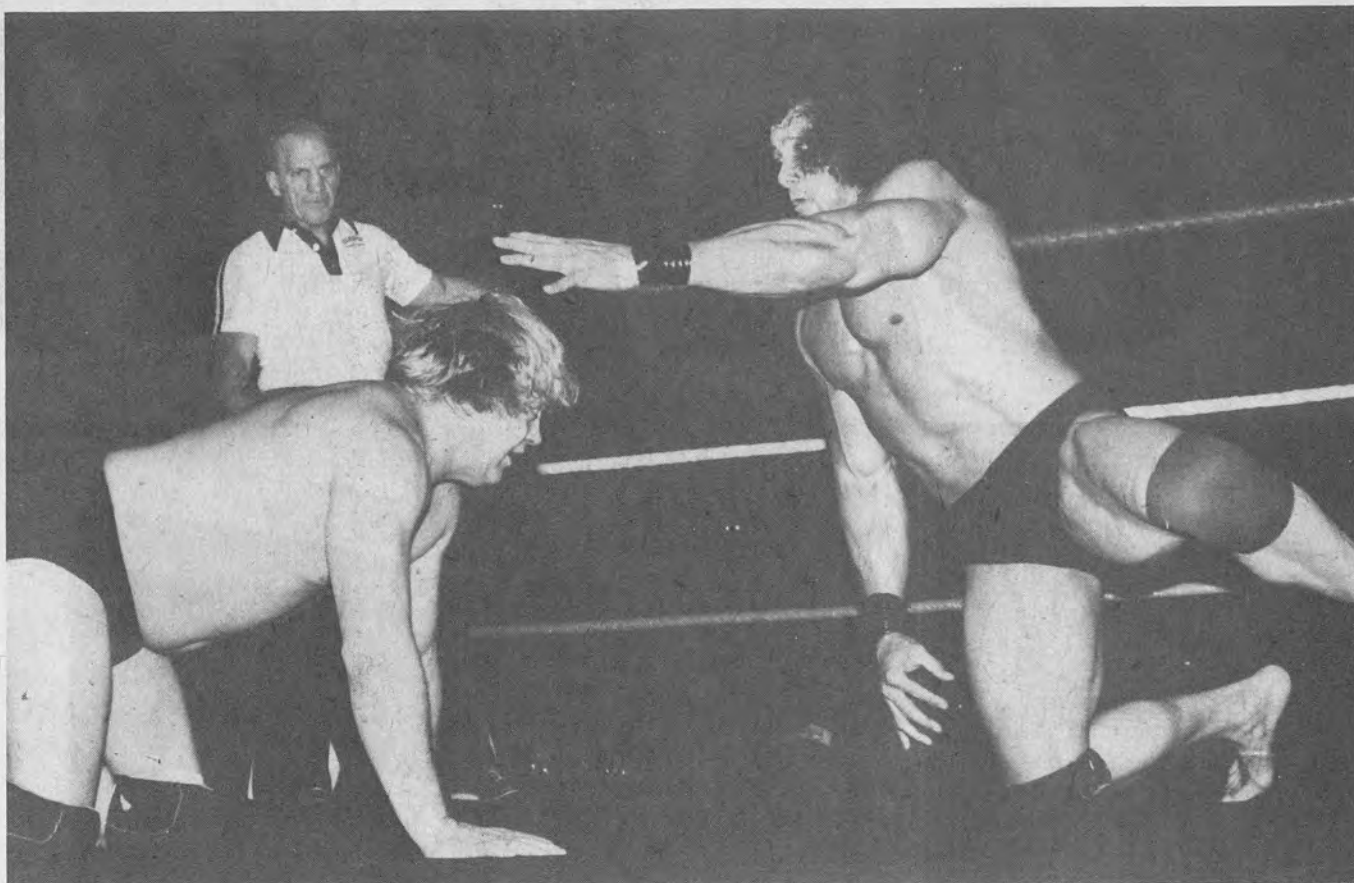
"By now, I would have hoped that Rogers would be guiding Snuka to some more important matches," Tom said, "maybe even another title shot against Backlund. But he seems as obsessed as Snuka with the idea of running Stevens into the ground."

"Can you blame him?" I asked. "Hell, two piledrivers on concrete is nothing to sneeze at."

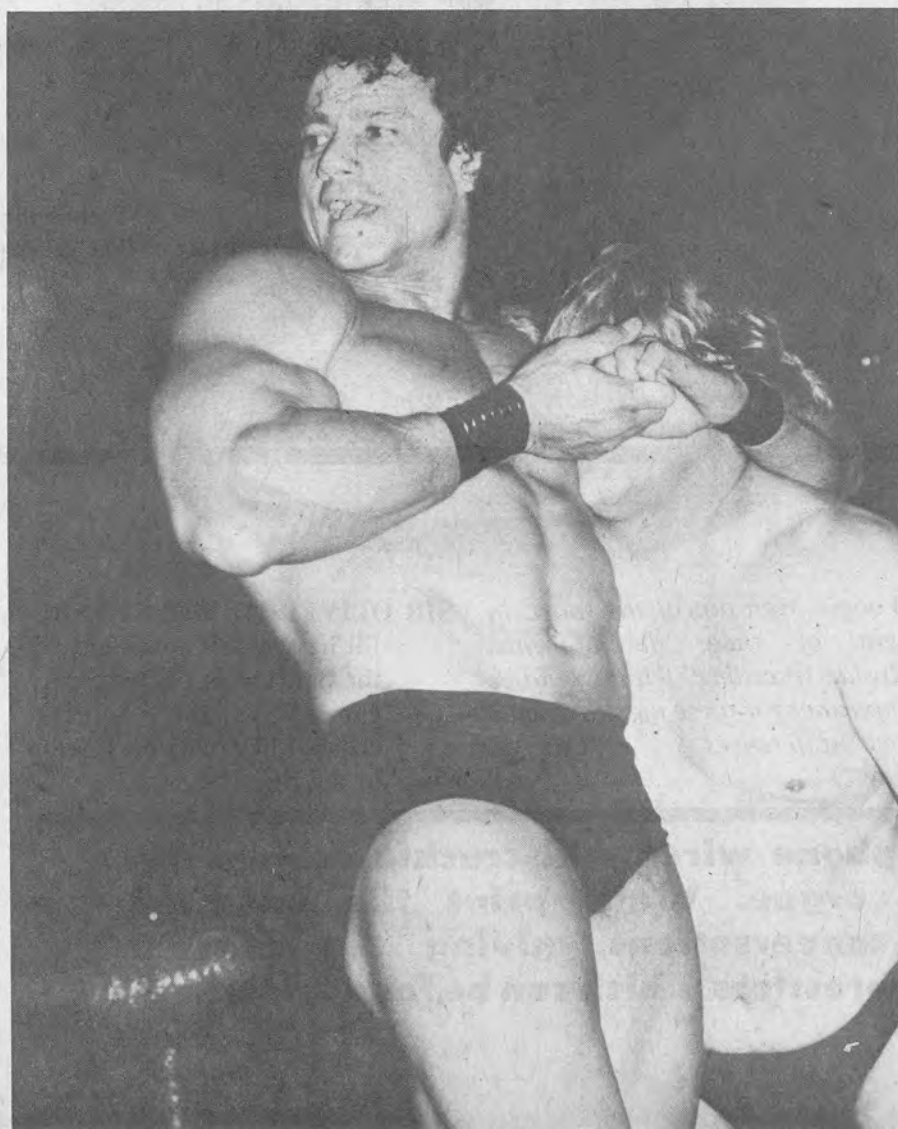
"Sure, but you have to understand that there is a difference between revenge and obsession," Tom pointed out. "I have a hunch that Snuka may have crossed that line. If he has, his career may be as chaotic in the future as it was in the past with Albano."

I pondered the implications of what Tom had said. He was right, of course. It seemed as if Snuka was wrestling Ray Stevens in every arena across the Northeast, from Madison Square Garden and the Capital Centre to the smallest high school on Long Island.

It's obvious that Jimmy Snuka is not concerned anymore with setting an example of excellence



From a kneeling position, the catlike Snuka springs at his rival (above). The Superfly absorbs the support of his fans as he holds Stevens in a side headlock (left). When will Snuka free himself from his obsession with revenge and get on with the business of furthering a potentially great wrestling career?



for wrestling fans. He has become a man obsessed with revenge. Someday his matches with Ray Stevens will be over, but they will have left their indelible mark on his personality.

Will Jimmy Snuka be able to forget about Captain Lou Albano? About Fred Blassie and Ray Stevens? Will Snuka be able to purge his soul of the unquenchable thirst for revenge that has held him in such a strong grip? Will he be able to forget about the events of the past year or so and resume a normal career?

I don't believe he can, and I'm afraid as a result of these events, Snuka will never be the same man again.

What a shame.

□

ONE ON



SIR OLIVER HUMPERDINK

(Sir Oliver Humperdink does not like Jimmy Valiant. Those eight words could well be one of the greatest understatements in all of professional wrestling. Last year, the unscrupulous manager signed The Russian Bear, Ivan Koloff, and sent him up against Valiant in match after match. When Humperdink's contract with Koloff ran out, he signed Jos LeDuc to his stable of rule-breakers. LeDuc has picked up where Koloff left off, hounding Valiant from ring to ring all across the Mid-Atlantic. Recently, a new factor in the Humperdink-Valiant feud surfaced: Humperdink offered \$100,000 in cash to the wrestler who can run the Boogie

Woogie Man out of the sport. In light of these developments, "Inside Wrestling" felt it would be important for these men to discuss their differences . . . "One on One.")



Picturephones
courtesy of Bell Telephone

SIR OLIVER HUMPERDINK:

I'll have you know right off the bat, I'm not here to play games, Valiant. Talk is cheap. I like to do my talking in the ring.

Every month the telephone wires will crackle as two top grapplers rage and argue. We'll print the unedited transcript of their conversations, giving the fans a privileged glimpse at wrestlers which can be found nowhere else

N ONE



Simulated photos

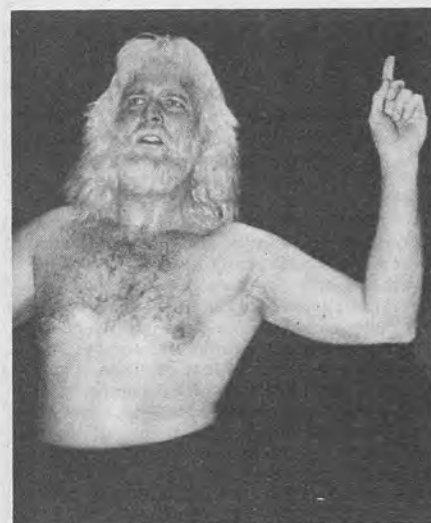
JIMMY VALIANT:

Sure, Rooster, you've been doing a lot of talking lately. I notice you don't have much of a voice of your own, you have to send other men into the ring to do your dirty work for you.

OH: From where I sit, there's no such thing as "dirty work." Most men in wrestling would consider it a pleasure to cripple you permanently,

and any man who is able to do that is going to pocket 100 grand. Not a bad payday, don't you think? Hell, you might even want to throw yourself off a roof for that kind of money!

JV: You're such an ignorant fool, Rooster. Not only is talk cheap, but you have no ethics at all, do you? Let other men handle your problems, place bounties on



JIMMY VALIANT

the heads of wrestlers. Why don't you step into the ring with me yourself and we'll see who the better man is, or are you that afraid to back up your words with actions?

OH: I'm not afraid of you or any other man, but I notice that whenever any of my wrestlers step into the ring with you, they don't stay in the ring that long. You always kick them out of the ring, if you ever let them get there in the first place. More often than not you'll attack, or should I say ambush my men before the timekeeper's bell signals the start of the match. In the Old West, you would hang for something like that.

JV: In the Old West, they would have called it self-defense. Why don't you open your eyes when you sit at ringside for the matches? If you weren't so blinded by

(Continued on page 64)

VERY RARE BACK ISSUES

THE ORIGINAL WRESTLING REVUE

ONLY \$5 EACH

All the back issues of the ORIGINAL WRESTLING REVUE listed for sale in this advertisement were edited and published by Stanley Weston, who founded Wrestling Revue in 1959 and sold his interests in the magazine in 1964. These extremely rare back issues have not been available to the public for more than 15 years, although many have been sold by private collectors for as much as 75 dollars per copy. This is a rare opportunity for those of you who collect and treasure truly fine wrestling magazines of great historic importance, at a price you can afford. Most of these issues contain magnificent, full color pin up portraits of the world's greatest wrestlers, some of whom are still active. The supply of these collector's treasures is very limited, so order today and avoid disappointment.

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Rich-Sawyer Bloodbath

(Continued from Page 35)

temporarily suspended his quest for Ric Flair's NWA title. In the May 1983 issue of our sister publication *The Wrestler*, Rich was quoted as saying, "I can't give up the campaign, it's simply something I have to do right now."

He continued, "I feel bad because I simply can't stop right now. I know that this disturbs a lot of my fans, and for that I'm sorry."

Not only the fans, but even fellow wrestlers who have supported Rich throughout the feud are beginning to think Tommy is making a mistake. "I don't like Buzz Sawyer, either," said Butch Reed, "but I'm not gonna devote my entire career to the elimination of one man. Sawyer's just not worth it. Life goes on, ya know? I have one goal, and that's to be a world champion. I'm working toward my title shot against Ric Flair. If I were Tommy, I'd stop to think if it's worth it

or not."

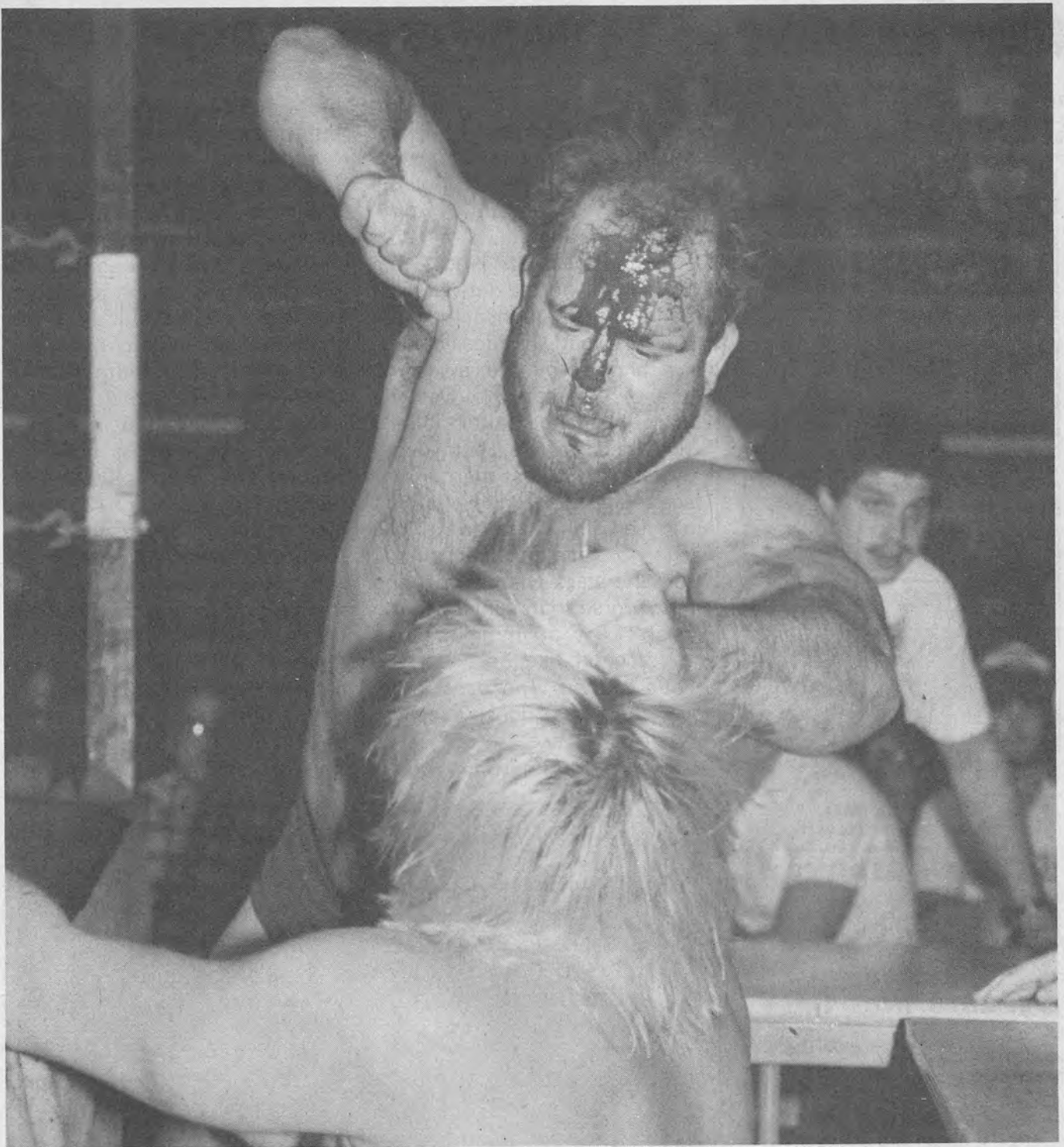
Sonny King blames the situation on the fact that neither wrestler has a manager to guide his career. "I would never let any wrestler of mine do what these two are doing. Rich and Sawyer are stagnating. Rich has fallen out of the ratings. Sawyer isn't getting anywhere. If these men had the proper management, they would not be in this situation. But it's fine with me if they want to keep on destroying each other. It just leaves more room at the top for my men."

Rich and Sawyer continue to follow each other around the country, despite the advice of their colleagues. Their most recent encounter was a cruel display of what two men can do when their hatred for one another reaches this level.

Neither man bothered to wait for the opening bell. Both ran from their dressing rooms into the ring



Sawyer forces blood to spurt out of Rich's head by applying a headlock. The winner of the matches between these two is ultimately the man who spills the least blood.



After the first few minutes of the match, winning and losing became secondary to how much punishment the wrestlers could inflict. Both wrestlers were disqualified when the battle spilled to the arena floor.

and attacked simultaneously. They flailed away at each other with sizzling punches and devastating kicks. The blood started to flow soon after, but even with their sight impaired, these archenemies refused to let up.

Sawyer attempted a pin early on, but it was too soon, as Rich had plenty of strength to power out.

That was the last time either wrestler would even think about winning or losing.

The bout spilled out of the ring and onto the concrete floor. The fans were horrified as each man rammed the other's head into ringposts, chairs, anything that was there. The referee began to count them out of the ring, but they

didn't care. They weren't there to win or lose, they were there to maim each other.

Neither Rich nor Sawyer heard the bell ring, signifying the end of the match. They didn't care. They fought up the aisle, back to the dressing room and probably into the street, where such matches belong in the first place. □

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DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from Page 10)

left home, I was determined to make it on my own. I knew it would be tough, but I also knew that everything I earned would be mine. I wouldn't owe anything to anyone.

"Bruno was very kind to me when I first started out—at least that's what I thought at the time. But I was young, impressionable, and blinded by the awesome aura of the man. He was the Living Legend, after all. I welcomed his help. I considered myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth. I didn't admit it to myself at the time, but I think I began to hate the man almost from the start. There's only one thing worse than someone who doesn't know anything and tries to come off like he does; and that's a man who *does* know everything and doesn't let you forget your place.

"Bruno Sammartino was a

great wrestler. I've never said otherwise. But as far as being a great human being, I have to laugh. People see in a legend what they want to see. I knew the man for what he really was."

Zbyszko was scheduled to wrestle Bruno Jr. the following evening, two evenings after that, and again two evenings after that. The hatred that consumes Zbyszko hasn't subsided, because circumstances won't let it subside. Shortly after Bruno Sr. retired (something for which Zbyszko claims to be directly responsible), Bruno Jr. turned professional. After spending several months in Puerto Rico and the Georgia area gaining valuable experience, Bruno Jr. came north, challenged Zbyszko, and the two have been battling ever since.

"Three times a week," Zbyszko said. "Three times a



Back in January 1980, Larry Zbyszko wraps his hands around the throat of the man he used to consider his second father.

VICTORY SPORTS BACK ISSUES

week I see the same ugly face staring at me from across the ring. 'Don't beat me up, Larry,' his eyes tell me. 'I don't want to be here, but I have no choice.' Damn, it's pathetic, it's so pathetic. At first, the kid wanted to avenge his father. Admirable. But after the first few lickings, he knew. He knew who the boss was. I'm Larry Zbyszko, I'm the Living Legend now!"

Zbyszko doesn't have the same feelings about Bruno Jr. as he does about Bruno Sr. But even when he battles Bruno Jr., he is still fighting the man he despises. "From day one, Bruno Sammartino used me," Zbyszko said. "I was a guinea pig. He didn't want to help me. He was using me to figure out the best way to prepare his own son for a wrestling career when he was ready. If there were mistakes to be made, let Larry pay the price. By the time Bruno Jr. was ready, Bruno would know exactly what to do."

Larry sat in silence for a short while, perhaps for the first time *thinking* about his feud with Bruno Jr. For too long, the thought process has been dormant. For too long, momentum has carried this feud. It's unreasonable. It's dangerous. And it's unnecessary.

"Sitting here like this, I can't honestly say I hate Bruno Jr.," Zbyszko finally said. "I hate the fact that he is doing his father's bidding. I hate the fact that Bruno would allow his own son to get his face beat in night after night. I hate the cowardice that is Bruno Sammartino. Every scar I put in Bruno Jr.'s head serves as a message to his father . . . a reminder of how much I hate the man. Only this way, I save the 20-cent stamp!"

Zbyszko laughed at his own joke. I was sickened by it. There was nothing to laugh about, as far as I was concerned. ☐

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from Page 6)

KERRY SHOULD BE CHAMP

Everyone in Texas knows who the NWA champion should be. The wrestler I'm referring to is, of course, Kerry Von Erich. Ric Flair has never gained a pinfall



wrestler and a great human being. Keep striving for the NWA belt, and always remember that Charlotte is behind you 150 percent.

MITZI FOSTER

ALISA SHEPARD

Charlotte, NC

SEXY HERCULES

I have just come back from seeing wrestling in the Midwest. There is a new wrestler there who is probably the most incredible newcomer to emerge in a decade—Hercules Hernandez. He breathes power. He is very handsome, in a rugged way. He is fantastically talented. He is sexy as hell.

I could go on and on about him, but the purpose of this letter is to encourage you to feature him in your great magazine. I predict he will soon be featured everywhere. So I

win over Kerry. Kerry pinned Flair, but was disqualified for accidentally hitting the referee. He also beat six-time NWA champion Harley Race to gain a title shot at Flair.

In your ratings, Harley Race remains fourth in the NWA, and Kerry isn't even rated! Do you do this because you feel sorry for Race, or are you hoping that by ranking him that high he'll get another shot at the belt and have a chance at breaking Lou Thesz's record?

I hope in the weeks to come you'll see the greatness that is Kerry Von Erich, and all of us fans will have the opportunity to read more about the future NWA champion.

BARRY BARBER
Fort Worth

PIPER IS LOVED

An open letter to Roddy Piper:

We just thought we would tell you that we've loved you ever since you came into the Mid-Atlantic area. You're a hell of a



Hercules Hernandez (applying a hammerlock on Mark Romero) is held in high regard by reader Gracie Newcombe, who describes Hercules as rugged, talented, and sexy.

hope you will start the ball rolling for all of us fans of the great Hercules Hernandez.

GRACIE NEWCOMBE
Lehigh Valley, PA

[Editor's Note: Hercules Hernandez was introduced in the March 1983 issue of "The Wrestler."]

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PWI/Sept 80

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PWI/Jan 81

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PWI/Feb 81

Color Poster: Rick Steamboat



PWI/Apr 81

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PWI/Jan 82

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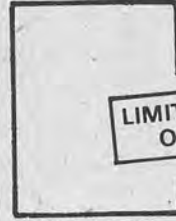
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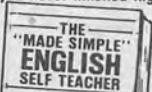
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ON THE ROAD

(Continued from Page 12)

night Kevin and I were signed to wrestle a title match with a Samoan tag team. Well, I couldn't wrestle in that match no matter what I did, so my father came in to substitute for me."

I smiled. Eddie Graham's reputation is understood around the world. I imagined what it must have felt like for young Mike Graham to see his legendary father team up with his championship friend, Kevin Sullivan.

"Well, unfortunately things didn't go too well for Kevin and my father," Mike said. "Tag team wrestling requires precision timing. My father is a great wrestler, but he never had the chance to train as much as he should have with Kevin in order to defend the belts. These two Samoans were rough and rugged wrestlers, and they didn't offer any mercy at all. Once they began

double-teaming Kevin, it was all over."

I remained silent. Mike was lost in the memories of events that occurred nearly a decade ago. I didn't want to disturb his train of thought.

"I was at ringside for that match, and I was cheering Kevin and my father on as if my own life depended on it," Mike continued. "When I saw those guys double-teaming Kevin, my heart dropped in my chest. All I wanted to do was run into the ring and help Kevin, but I couldn't; I was too badly hurt."

Mike paused for a moment, and I could see the expression in his face change from that of pleasure to one of disgust.

"I wouldn't help Kevin now even if he were being quadruple-teamed by Killer Khan, Abdullah the Butcher, John Studd, and Kendo Nagasaki," Graham said. "I mean,

Sullivan was a favorite of the Florida fans when he wrestled such men as The Masked Saint a decade ago (below). Today's Kevin Sullivan (opposite right) considers himself a disciple of the Devil.



look at what Kevin has done over the past year. He tried to cripple Barry Windham, he turned on several people who trusted him, who thought Kevin was a friend, and now this cult thing. I honestly don't know what to think of Kevin



anymore. He's so unpredictable, he's so . . . so . . . hell, you just don't know what he's going to do next. I just don't want any part of him.

"It's too bad that Jake Roberts has fallen into this cult thing," Mike added. "Not that I'm a great fan of Jake's or anything, but two men running around Florida screaming about this kind of crap is twice as bad as one. If that cult of Kevin's should catch on, who knows what could happen."

Mike apologized for the short length of his interview, but explained that he had to leave immediately in order to catch a plane. I thanked him for his time and left. He had already provided me with more than I had wanted or needed to know.

Imagine: Mike Graham and Kevin Sullivan, Florida tag team champions.

A lot of changes can occur in 10 years. ☐

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BODYSLAM & PINFALLS

(Continued from Page 14)



Grable should not have to wrestle against men to prove her value as an athlete. Steve O certainly didn't help his career by wrestling a woman!

How can the sport hope to attract the best talent when it treats its athletes like second-class citizens? Other sports attract women athletes by offering large purses, the possibility of commercial promotions, and a sense of importance. In contrast, wrestling is discouraging women amateur athletes from considering professional careers. When Joyce Grable demanded equal pay, she was demanding no less than a real future for an important segment of professional wrestling.

And how is Ms. Grable treated by the sport and the fans? It should come as little surprise that the reaction to her just demands is stupidity and shortsighted greed. Rather than build up what could be a very lucrative and exciting sports attraction, the promoters do everything to discourage not only Joyce but anyone else

from following her. The message to serious women athletes is clear: Wrestling doesn't want you around.

What can be done about this? First, fans will have to realize the harm they are causing. Instead of laughing at a woman for demanding her rights, they should applaud her. The vast segment of women fans should write to their local arenas, proclaiming their support for Ms. Grable and the important issues for which she stands. Anything less is betrayal of every woman's own best interests. If any public female figure can be underpaid and it seems to be acceptable, women all over America can expect similar treatment. Joyce Grable is fighting your fight, ladies!

I don't blame Ms. Grable one bit for not showing up in Atlanta. The issues she raised in good faith, important issues that could affect the entire sport, were treated as jokes. She knew fans would come just to see her humiliated. Certain men in the Battle Royal, those who do the fans' bidding with blind devotion, would have made sure Ms. Grable would not only be hurled unceremoniously from the ring, but she would be hurt as well. That'll teach those pushy women, right guys?

The NWA has once more cut off its nose to spite its face. Here was a chance for it to publicly show the amateur women athletes of America that professional

wrestling wants them. Instead, it held up the only woman with integrity to ridicule. It forced her into an untenable position and then forced her to appear cowardly. At least America was spared the news of 250-pound bullies battering a woman into the cement while the fans cheered.

The NWA officials owe Ms. Grable and all women athletes an apology. There is a way to make it up. They can admit their mistake and rectify it; it would not be hard to have a women's Battle Royal for the same stakes that the men enjoyed. They could publicly announce that this is intended to show their good faith, and that they hope this will encourage young women to take professional wrestling seriously.

It is no accident that professional wrestling has trouble attracting the top women athletes. It should be no accident that that situation is corrected. Fans all over the world have shown that they respect the women as warriors. It is criminal that the women should not receive financial parity with the men.

No one can ever erase the emotional scars Joyce Grable must have suffered during her ordeal. It is the price every revolutionary must pay so that others need not suffer. In the future, when even the cavemen boors of the NWA are forced to pay women their just due, the ladies will owe a debt of thanks to the brave and dignified Joyce Grable.

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THE INSIDER

(Continued from Page 18)

and in the plans I develop.

"We both know, Rich, that The Blackjacks have gone down in history as one of the premier tag teams of all time," Dillon continued. "It sure would be a feather in a manager's cap if he were able to reunite them."

I could almost hear Dillon's smug smile on the other end of the phone. I declined to continue the interview, realizing that I wouldn't get anywhere. Whether Dillon will get anywhere in his negotiations with The Blackjacks... well, your guess is as good as mine.

RUMOR VS. FACT

RUMOR: Crusher Blackwell will soon be splitting with Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie due to the Sheik's unwillingness to meet Blackwell's financial demands.

FACT: "This is obviously a rumor started by those



Crusher Blackwell denies the rumor of any problem between he and Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie.

insignificant little toads Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell," accused Blackwell. "They're just engaging in wishful thinking. Sheik Al-Kaissie and myself will not stop until we bring the AWA tag team belts to their rightful owners."

RUMORS: Actor-comedian Andy Kaufman has placed a \$5,000 bounty on the head of Jerry Lawler, payable to any

man who can do to Lawler what Lawler did to Kaufman: piledrive him and place him in a neckbrace for several months.

FACT: This rumor is absolutely true. "I'm going to show Lawler that he's not just playing around with an idiot," said Kaufman. "I'm nobody's fool, and Lawler will be paid back for what he did to me and my career."

INJURY REPORT

KEN LUCAS suffered assorted back and neck problems after being double-teamed by THE MASKED GRAPPLERS, who used their brutal "guillotine" maneuver on him during a match in San Antonio.

EDDIE GILBERT, shown here with his advisor **ARNOLD SKOALAND**, was given a black eye by **BIG JOHN STUDD** during an installment of WWF wrestling, televised from Pennsylvania. Skoaland and WWF champion **BOB BACKLUND** sat at ringside during



Arnold Skoaland appears pleased that the worst John Studd could do to Eddie Gilbert was a black eye.

that match. Skoaland is reportedly interested in handling Gilbert's contract on a permanent basis. □

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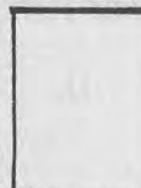
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(Continued from Page 37)

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Then, like a recurring nightmare that creeps back to plague the unconscious, Rick's temper began to reassert itself. In more and more matches, Rick found himself overwhelmed by his own rage. Opponents knew they could get to him, and used that knowledge to Rick's disadvantage. When Rick was at his best, they worked on his temper with surgical precision. Rick's advantage would disappear along with his control. Then would come the double-disqualification, and Rick's title dreams never get closer to becoming reality.

Most recently, this tragedy was played out against U.S. champion Greg Valentine. Rick wants and needs this title. He prepared endless for this match, both physically and mentally. All his waking hours were spent working on preparing himself in the gym. Friends say he barely saw them during this period, that he preferred to isolate himself from everything and everyone until the match. He was determined; Valentine would have to face him at his best.

For about 15 minutes, Rick was at his best, which is about Once Steamboat lost his temper, he was playing right into Valentine's hands. A double-countout would suit the U.S. champion just fine; he would walk away with his title.

as good as anyone in the sport. Valentine was constantly overwhelmed by perfectly executed maneuvers. Rick had done his homework; his strategies seemed to effortlessly exploit Valentine's weaknesses. Fans were getting ready to cheer for a new champion.

Rick wasn't the only one who had done his homework. Valentine's manager, Sir Oliver Humperdink, knew Steamboat only too well. A couple of cryptic shouts from his manager changed Valentine's style. His maneuvers became cruder, more obviously illegal. They also caused Rick to suffer more pain. That made Rick angry. And that led to his downfall.

Rick started wrestling wildly. Valentine and Humperdink were elated. The match lasted for less than two very violent minutes. The referee, unable to control the brutal war, was forced to declare a double-disqualification. Steamboat walked back to the dressing room without the U.S. title belt. Several of his fans cried unashamedly.

In the dressing room, Rick was inconsolable. He knew his temper had once again deprived him of his prize. He had no one to



blame but himself. Valentine and Humperdink may have set the trap, but Rick had jumped into it. His friends didn't even try to tell him this wasn't as bad as it seemed. They knew better. It was just as bad as it seemed.

"I was suckered again," Rick repeated over and over, as if repetition would make the fact easier to absorb. "It's like it was the last time and the time before that. Valentine knows he can keep me from his title every time. I'm no threat to him. Like this, I'm no threat to anybody. I try to keep my temper, I try to stick to my game plan, I try.

"When you're a kid, you figure being an adult will cure all your problems. Age is no cure. I have to do it myself. I can't let it get to me. I can't let it get to me. But how do I stop it?"

Friends try to offer suggestions, at least they did in the beginning. They know Rick understands what needs to be done. It just seems impossible for him to do it.

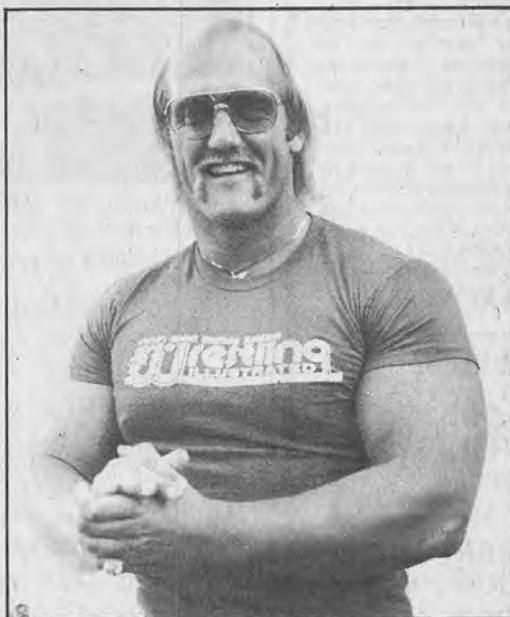
Veteran wrestler Johnny Weaver probably knows Steamboat the wrestler as well as anybody. He saw Rick's match against Valentine. When he heard Humperdink shout the orders, Weaver got up and left. He didn't want to see what was inevitably going to happen.

Later that night, Weaver explained, "Some guys, like myself, can make anger work for them. We use it, channel it, and succeed. Steamboat isn't like that. He requires control at all times. I think his temper scares him, so he can't cope with it. My temper is my friend. When I get mad, I know how to channel it. Rick only knows that he's out of control.

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ONE ON ONE

(Continued from Page 47)



Valiant thrusts his right hand into the exposed face of One Man Gang. The Gang was one of the men who attempted to collect Sir Oliver Humperdink's \$100,000 reward for ending Valiant's career.

ignorance, you would see that it's animals like Koloff and LeDuc who throw the chairs first, who bring the foreign objects into the ring, who draw first blood.

OH: Right. And I'm sure it was Jos LeDuc who opened that seven stitch cut on his own forehead. And I'm sure Koloff just loved to see the blood streaming down his face. Are you kidding? You're a menace to any wrestler you step into the ring with. The only reason I've placed \$100,000 on the block is because with you out of the sport, wrestling would be much safer. If you were run out of the sport, everyone would be much better off.

JV: You fat hypocrite!

OH: Not at all, just a man who sees what he doesn't like and knows how to change things so that they're better.

JV: Well, I've got news for you, Rooster, you'll never succeed.

OH: Won't I?

JV: No way. Ivan Koloff was unsuccessful, Jos LeDuc has been unsuccessful so far, and anyone else you recruit will be unsuccessful.

OH: What makes you so sure?

JV: Because this is the beginning of the end for the House of Humperdink. You have the House of Humperdink? Well, what are you going to do about Piper's Palace?

OH: Don't make me laugh.

JV: You better not laugh, because you know you're in trouble. Men like myself, Roddy Piper, Jack and Jerry Brisco, Mike Rotondo, and Bob Orton are going to come at the House of Humperdink full steam.

OH: Full steam? Those guys all together aren't even worthy of my consideration. The whole idea of "Piper's Palace" is nothing but a joke. The only reason Piper started this deal is because he knows of the success of the House of Humperdink, and he is jealous of my

achievements. What's with Piper, does he want to become a manager now?

JV: No, not a manager, but the leader of a group of men who will demolish the House of Humperdink. Say your prayers, Rooster, because you won't be in the Mid-Atlantic for very much longer.

OH: Don't be so sure, Valiant. I'll be around here a lot longer than you.

JV: I wouldn't bet any money on that, Rooster.

OH: I'm betting \$100,000 on it, isn't that enough for you?

JV: You'll lose, I promise you that. □

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